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AGRI-NEWS

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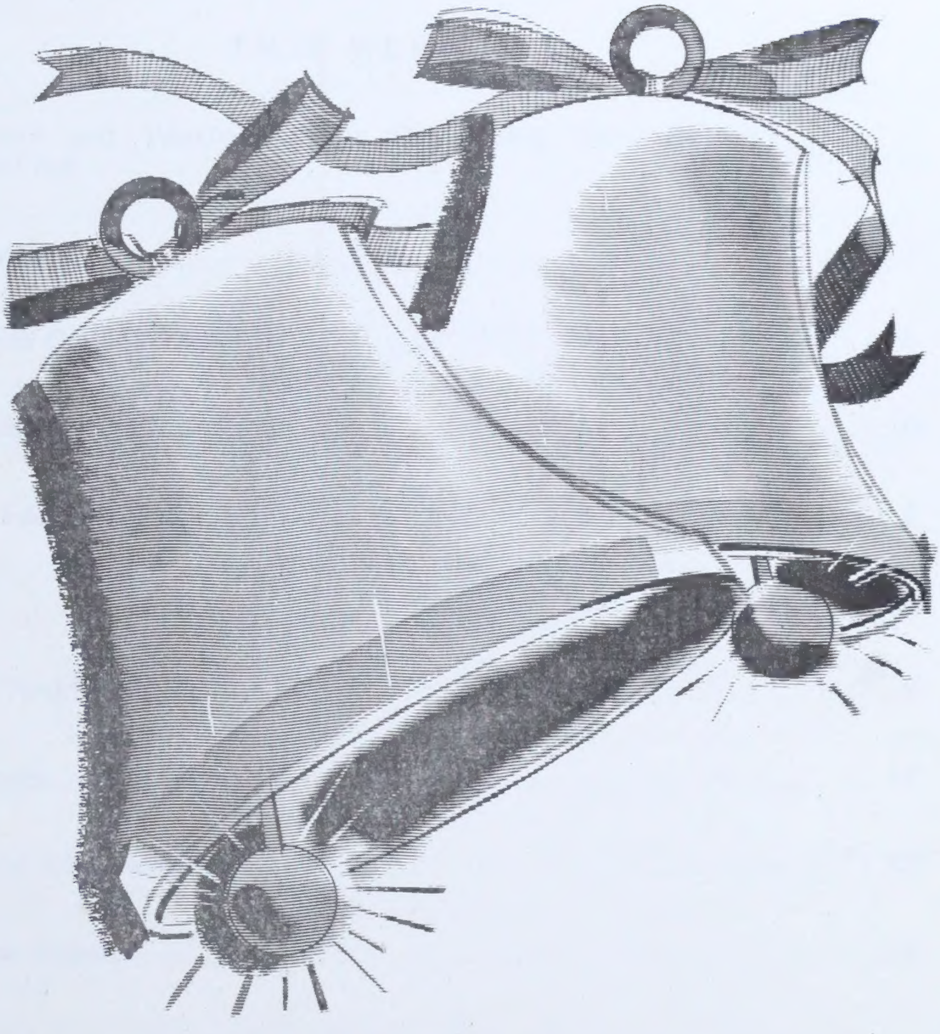

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLARESHOLM FEEDMILL AND VAUXHALL ALFALFA DEHYDRATING PLANT RECEIVE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AID

Claresholm Feed Service Ltd. in southern Alberta will receive a $52,882 incentive grant, under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Program, to modernize and expand its facilities.

The assistance is shared equally by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture and is based on 13.7 per cent of total eligible capital costs, which are estimated to be $386,000. It is designed to help food and feed processing plants to locate in rural areas or to upgrade plants already located in rural areas.

The Claresholm plant, which has been in operation since 1964, processes a variety of livestock and poultry feeds, which it obtains from about 200 local farmers. Because of the wide range in the quality of the grains, a scalping unit is being installed in the plant to clean the grain, thereby providing a more uniform raw material. Raw materials processed at the plant include wheat, oats, barley, beet pulp, alfalfa, meat meal, rape meal, soymeal, corn and bran.

A mixing unit with a blender is also being installed to increase production and to separate the supplement and complete feeds. It is expected that production, which is expect to be over 25,000 for 1977, will double when the present expansion and modernization plan has been completed. It is also expected that five new jobs will be created.

Storage space for the raw materials and the finished products is also being increased so that feed can be stockpiled to meet heavy season demands.

Vauxhall Dehydrating Plant

Alberta Dehydrating Co. Ltd., constructed in Vauxhall 20 years ago, will receive a $37,895 grant under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Program to modernize and expand its facilities. The assistance is based on 13 per cent of the total eligible costs, which are estimated to be $291,500.

- (cont'd) -

Claresholm Feedmill and Vauxhall Alfalfa Dehydrating Plant Receive Federal Provincial Aid (cont'd)

The plant, which produces dehydrated and sun-cured alfalfa pellets, is to have a higher-capacity pellet mill and hammer mill plus a front-end loader to feed the bale-breaking equipment. Storage space will be increased and new ducts will be installed to improve energy efficiency in the drying process.

The plant production for 1977 is estimated at 23,000 tons, compared with 2,000 tons in 1966. Approximately 90 per cent of the pellets are marketed in Alberta.

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January 2, 1978
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEANER FEEDLOT CATTLE

Feedlot cattle that are kept dry and clean gain 25 per cent faster than those that are kept in muddy pens.

This is the conclusion of a special Committee for Cleaner Feedlot Cattle that was set up by the federal government in 1972 to study the problem of dirty cattle. Its members were chosen from governments and the various sectors of the Canadian beef cattle industry.

They found that research results consistently emphasize the economic benefits obtained from reducing winter energy losses in feeder cattle by providing a dry, comfortable resting area (the more time the cattle spend lying down, the less heat they lose), by paving heavy traffic areas and by good feedlot drainage. The committee members all agreed that in the prairie climate, top priority should be given to a dry bedded mound in the feedlot. Windbreak fencing, a paved watering and feeding area and a covered resting area were also recommended in this order of importance.

A study carried out at the University of Saskatchewan showed that steers kept in bedded pens consistently gained an average of 2.49 pounds a day compared with 1.89 pounds a day for animals which had no bedding. It was estimated that the bedded steers reached a slaughter grade about two weeks ahead of those without bedding. There was no difference in the average daily feed intake of the two groups.

In a study carried out at Davis, California, cattle confined in paved, open pens gained 2.85 pounds per day compared with 2.17 pounds per day for cattle kept in muddy feedlots. The study also showed that the effects from artificially induced wind and rain had a less detrimental effect on the cattle than mud, and that the provision of a dry resting area in muddy pens significantly improved gains. The cattle were observed to spend much more time lying down.

A survey carried out in 1973-74 by Alberta Agriculture showed that the three main factors that contribute to the production of dirty feedlot cattle in Western Canada were insufficient bedding, poor drainage and overcrowding.

- (cont'd) -

Cleaner Feedlot Cattle (cont'd)

Bedding

Some feedlot operators who used bedding said that two-thirds of a bale per head per week on an adequate mound was sufficient to keep cattle clean. Several other operators reported excellent results from wood chips, shavings and sawdust. In addition to being an economical substitute for straw, shavings can be handled mechanically.

Space Allotment

Pens with sufficient space to prevent the manure pack from covering the entire pen tended to produce cleaner cattle. It was agreed that a minimum of 250 square feet per animal was required for the development of a clearly defined bedded mound. These figures were based on feedlots where the manure was not removed during the feeding period.

Drainage

Drainage should be away from feeding and watering areas. A slope of at least 4 per cent seems to be required for the satisfactory drainage of surface moisture.

Manure Removal

Most feedlot operators remove manure once a year with a front-end loader and manure spreader. Available data indicate that the frequency of manure removal has little bearing on the amount of "tag" that collects on cattle.

Snow Barriers

Snow fencing or a row of trees, located about 150 feet upwind, will almost completely eliminate snowdrifts in a feedlot.

The Committee for Cleaner Feedlot Cattle concluded that the long-term solution to the dirty cattle problem is for feedlot operators to become aware of the improved gains and feed saved by keeping cattle dry and comfortable, and for buyers to pay a more obvious and more fair price differential for clean versus dirty cattle.

January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROPOSED MARKET HAY GRADING SYSTEM

Canada could possibly have a market hay grading system sometime in the future.

Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionist, Dr. P. J. Martin, and plant physiologist, Dr. E. S. Redshaw, recently returned from observing and discussing the latest developments in a proposed market hay grading system and a computerized feed analysis system at the University of Wisconsin and the Pennsylvania State University.

The American Forage and Grassland Council's Forage Analysis Subcommittee, after having surveyed U.S. scientists working with forage quality and animal nutrition, proposed the new grading system for establishing market hay grades. The system uses both organoleptic characteristics and representative chemical analysis to establish five regular grades for legumes, grasses and legume-grass mixtures.

The proposed five grades would be based on the hay's representative stage of maturity, its leafiness, color and proportion of foreign material; its freedom from mold, a musty odor, dust and other damage; its typical chemical composition for crude protein; its acid detergent fibre and neutral detergent fibre and its relative feed value.

The possibility of incorporating an infrared spectro-computer system (IRSCS) into the proposed market hay grading system is being studied at the Pennsylvania State University in co-operation with the U.S. Regional Pasture Research Laboratory.

IRSCS is apparently capable of predicting a wide range of chemical constituents in livestock feeds, and it is envisaged that scanning instruments, placed at strategic locations throughout the country, could be attached to a computer network. It is also envisaged that a feed analysis would take only about two minutes under this system, and that the data could be automatically entered into ration balancing and protein accounting systems. Tests that have already been carried out in this connection appear promising.

- (cont'd) -

Drs. Martin and Redshaw plan to keep in touch with the American researchers working on the market hay grading system and to attempt to obtain Canadian data so that they can test the practicability of using such a system in Canada. They also plan to evaluate the computer analysis system from the point of view of its possible use in Alberta Agriculture's Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSK OX ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Musk Ox Association, scheduled for 1:00 p.m. January 6, will be held in the St. James United Church (corner of 107 Avenue and 144 Street, Edmonton). It will not be held at the Provincial Museum and Archives as previously planned.

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January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEMEN EVALUATION FACILITIES

Facilities for checking the quality of livestock semen are available in Alberta Agriculture's semen evaluation laboratory in Edmonton. They can be used by artificial insemination (AI) units and private breeders.

Since semen ranks with herd fertility, heat detection and insemination efficiency as a major factor contributing to the success or failure of an AI breeding program, Alberta Agriculture has been monitoring the quality of semen sold in the province since the laboratory was established three years ago.

Frozen semen is thawed in the laboratory and examined under a phase contrast microscope for sperm motility. A motility of 20 per cent or more is considered acceptable. When deemed necessary, morphological studies are also done on semen samples.

The addition of a variety of sophisticated equipment to the laboratory before the end of this year is expected to help laboratory staff provide advanced technical aid to semen processors in Alberta.

There is no charge for Alberta Agriculture's semen evaluation service, which is available for all species of animals. However, people using it must pay for transporting the nitrogen tanks containing the semen to and from the laboratory.

If you would like more information about the service,or if you would like to use it,you should contact Dr. John Taylor, supervisor of Artificial Insemination, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD BANK

Are you planning to contribute to the Food Bank? The key to the success of this five-year trial plan depends upon the response it gets from Canadian farmers and others in a position to sell wheat.

Sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee, in co-operation with the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Wheat Board, the Food Bank is designed to facilitate the provision of food on short notice in the case of a natural or man-made disaster in a needy country. In essence, it is intended to bring together the needs of people in another part of the world and the abundance that we enjoy in Canada.

Farmers who wish to help make this worth-while scheme a success can do so by donating wheat through the wheat board. If you want to donate only part of a load of wheat, you simply ask your elevator agent to make out two tickets. Write on the one for the grain you wish to donate "For deposit to the Food Bank", print your name and address on the back of the ticket, sign it and sent it to Food Bank, MCC (Canada), 202-1483 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Upon receipt of the ticket, the Food Bank will issue a tax deductible receipt for its cash value. All donations come out of a farmer's quota; they are not above the quota.

The Canadian Wheat Board will collect, store and deliver wheat intended for the Food Bank to a Canadian port. The Canadian Industrial Development Association will provide substantial funds towards storage and administrative costs as well as for ocean freight costs. It will also provide funds to pay for grain required in excess of that received through donations.

The Mennonite Central Committee, which has had considerable experience in allocating food in countries less developed than Canada, and its co-operating agencies, will be greatly helped by the Food Bank to make their food aid programs even more effective than they have been in the past.

Farmers who participate in the scheme will receive periodic information on the progress and activities of the Food Bank.

January 2, 1978
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVAILABLE CANFARM PROGRAMS

Are you planning to formulate a feed ration, buy more land or machinery or to expand one of your enterprises? If so CANFARM can help you, providing you have a good set of records.

Mac Harvey of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch stresses that the information you obtain from any of the CANFARM computer programs is only as good as the information you put in. The CANFARM record keeping system is one type of record keeping that will provide the information required by these programs. Assistance in setting up this record keeping system and the use of CANFARM programs are free.

Feed Formulation Program - this program is designed to help livestock producers to calculate balanced rations and to minimize feeding costs. It will provide seven alternative balanced rations, formulate separate grain, vitamin, mineral and supplement mixes; show when excess nutrients are being supplied; show the price at which another feed should be substituted and show the price at which the level of feed in the ration should be changed.

Loan Calculator Program - this program will supply payment schedules and show the size of payments, when they come due and the proportions of principal and interest in each payment for the duration of the loan. The program can also be used to compare interest rates on various loans before you take one out.

Cashplan Program - this program presents information that has been fed into the computer in a form required by most lending institutions. It can also be used to forecast what money will be coming in and going out over a period of time, and thereby help you to distribute your income to pay current expenses, loans, living expenses etc. It will also show you when your need for cash will be greatest so that you can re-arrange your credit, apply for a loan or modify your production plans.

The Cashplan Program includes a cash flow statement, which shows income and expenses on a quarterly basis; a projected farm income statement and a statement of farm assets and liabilities.

- (cont'd) -

Available CANFARM Programs (cont'd)

Machinery Buy Versus Custom Hire Program - this program provides a detailed comparison of the costs of buying a machine versus having the work done by a custom operator. The costs are broken down on a per acre, per mile or a per hour basis.

Machinery Planning Replacement Program - this program helps you to decide whether to trade in an old machine for a new one. It calculates and compares the costs associated with both the old and the new machines, and gives a detailed forecast of costs per year for the two machines for the periods you expect to keep them. These costs can be computed on a per acre, per mile, or per hour basis.

The above are just some of the programs that are available to Alberta farmers through CANFARM. Further information on these programs, and a list of the other programs, can be obtained from your district agriculturist or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD OILSEED OUTLOOK

The December issue of the "Rapeseed Digest" reports that well-informed sources expect the 1977-78 world oilseed crop to reach a record 135-140 million tons, or at least 15 million tons more than it was last year. Canada produces about 2 per cent of world oilseeds.

"The anticipated increase" says the digest, "can be mainly attributed to a significant rise in output of soy beans, but supplies of rapeseed, cottonseed, sunflower seed and flaxseed have also increased, although output of copra and palm kernels have decreased."

According to the "Rapeseed Digest" the higher oilseed harvest will raise the availability of oilseed cakes and meals to between 75 and 78 million tons compared with last year's 68 million tons. Soy bean meal and cottonseed will account for 50 million tons and 10 million tons respectively, compared with 43 million tons for soy bean meal and 9 million tons for cottonseed last year.

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June 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE HOME

If you would like to cut your fuel bills by conserving energy, you will find the publication "Energy Conservation in Home Design" an invaluable help. Although it is basically intended for people planning a new house, much of the information on the conservation of heat is equally applicable to existing houses.

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture's architectual technologist, Blaine Marler, the publication covers caulking, weather stripping, vapor barriers and window and door construction as well as the effect of such things as the shape, size and color of a building on heat conservation and maximum use of passive solar heat.

"The energy saving home", says Mr. Marler, "does not require advanced technology or 'space age' materials. Conventional methods and materials will do a very satisfactory job of lowering heating energy requirements by 50 per cent or more with little extra cost, providing time is taken for adequate planning." Among the things that need to be carefully planned are the shape, orientation and site of the proposed building and the materials that will be used. According to Mr. Marler, a true energy conserving building is one in which the structure and the site have been integrated to the point where reliance on fossil fuels and the surrounding environment is minimal.

In essence, "Energy Conservation in Home Design" contains practical information and illustrations on planning and designing a house that will conserve energy.

Another publication in the same series, entitled "Home Insulation Techniques," lists commonly used interior and exterior finishing and insulation materials in order of their heat conservation abilities and describes alternative methods of ceiling and wall construction that will give high levels of insulation.

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Energy Conservation in the Home (cont'd)

Two other publications, one entitled "How to Measure and Draw an Existing House Plan" illustrates how to draw a plan of your house to scale, and the other, "Exterior Finishing Materials", discusses the advantages and disadvantages of commonly used exterior house finishing materials, their application, maintenance and relative costs.

All four of the publications mentioned above can be obtained from your district home economist or the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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January 2, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

	1978
Palliser Wheat Growers Association 8th Annual Convention Holiday Inn Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	January 3 - 5
Unifarm Annual Convention Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 9 - 13
Alberta Branch of Canadian Seed Growers Association Annual Meeting Sandman Inn Edmonton, Alberta	January 12 - 13
Alberta Pork Seminar Banff Centre Banff, Alberta	January 17 - 20
Beef Cattlemen's Seminar Agricultural Extension Centre Brandon, Manitoba	January 23 - 25
Alberta Agriculture Co-ordinating Committee Annual Meeting (12th Floor Conference Room, Agriculture Building) Edmonton, Alberta	January 24
Western Agricultural Conference Regina, Saskatchewan	January 25 & 26
Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 26 & 27
Western Stock Growers Association Red Deer Lodge Motel Red Deer, Alberta	February 2 - 4
Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Convention Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	February 6 - 8

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agricultural Service Board Conference
South Convention Centre
South Edmonton, Alberta . . . . February 7 - 9

Canadian Hereford Association
Annual Meeting
Bayshore Inn
Vancouver, B.C. . . . . February 11

Meat Packers' Council of Canada
Annual Meeting
Queen Elizabeth Hotel
Montreal, P.Q.. . . . . February 12 - 14

Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Annual Meeting
Quebec City, P.Q. . . . . February 13 - 16

Alberta Poultry Industry Conference (27th)
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 21 - 23

Alberta Poultry Hatchery Association
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 21

Alberta Commercial Egg Producers' Association
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 22

Alberta Turkey Association
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 22

Alberta Hatching Egg Shippers' Association
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 22

Alberta Egg & Fowl Marketing Board
Annual Meeting
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 23

Alberta Turkey Growers' Marketing Board
Annual Meeting
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 23

-(cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agricultural Policy Issues Conference
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . February 27 - March 3

Ag-Expo (Annual Seed Fair, Short Course & Machinery Display)
Exhibition Pavilion
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . .March 1 - 4

Salon International de la Machine Agricole
Porte de Versailles
Paris, France . . . . .March 5 - 12

Round-Up '78
Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .March 5 - 26

Alberta Branch Canadian Seed Growers' Association
Annual Meeting
(Hotel to be announced)
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .March 6 & 7

Canadian Charolais Association
Annual Meeting
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .March 16 - 18

Canadian Western Stock Show & Rodeo
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . March 26 - April 2

Alberta Sheep Conference
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . .April 26 - 28

4-H Canadian Council Meeting
Chateau Halifax
Halifax, Nova Scotia . . . . May 29 - June 3

Fifth International Rapeseed Conference
Malmo, Sweden . . . . .June 12 - 16

Eighth Annual Alberta Provincial Plowing Match &
Canadian Plowing Championship Match
Wanham, Alberta . . . . .June 14 - 17

International Soil Science Congress
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .June 19 - 27

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

National Convention Canadian Feed Industry Association
Four Seasons Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .June 21 - 23

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Regina Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . .June 21 - 24

Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Canadian Institute of
Food Science & Technology
Edmonton Plaza Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .June 25 - 28

Agricultural Institute of Canada Annual Convention
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . July 2 - 6

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . July 9 - 12

"Whoop-Up Days" Lethbridge & District
Association Exhibition & Fair
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 17 - 22

Canadian Home Economics Association Convention
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 25 - 29

Alberta Polled Hereford Club Annual Meeting
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . .August 12

Second International Green Crop Dehydration
Congress - Dri-Crops '78
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . August 20 - 25

Annual Field Day
Alberta Horticultural Research Centre
Brooks, Alberta . . . . .August 25

Sixth International Cereal and Bread Congress
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . September 16 - 22

"Cereals '78: Better Nutrition for the World's Millions"
Canadian International Grains Institute
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . September 16 - 22

World's Poultry Congress
Hotel Nacional
Rio de Janiero, Brazil . . . . September 17 - 21

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Feed Industry Conference
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . September 21 - 22

Northern Alberta Hereford Club
Annual Meeting
Forestburg, Alberta. . . . . November 4

Farmfair '78
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 7 - 17

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Annual Meeting and In-Service Training
Sandman Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 21 - 24

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
Annual Meeting
El Rancho Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . .December

The Royal Smithfield Show
Earls Court
London, England. . . . . .December

1979

Agricultural Institute of Canada
Annual Convention
New Brunswick . . . . August 19 - 23

Seventeenth Tri-Annual International Conference of
Agricultural Economists
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . September 5 - 15

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

FEB 1 1978

January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALBERTA'S FARMERS' MARKETS

The young generation manning a craft stall at one of Alberta's farmers' markets

Alberta's farmers' markets have a bright year ahead if 1977 is anything to go by.

According to Dan Ness, Alberta Agriculture's farmers' market representative, last year's shoppers were delighted with the greatly increased selection of products they found at farmers' markets compared with previous years. Many markets, for example, had more than 28 varieties of vegetables from which their customers could choose, and the quality at most markets was top-notch. The choice of non-edible items was even greater. It included fur animals, macrame, polished gems, dolls dressed in national costumes, antiques, etc. So popular were these items and the edible produce that shoppers often lined up outside before the markets opened, and many stallholders reported that they were sold out within half an hour.

Mr. Ness reports that seven new markets were opened last year, bringing the total to 53. He says that several more communities are planning to open markets this year.

-(cont'd)-

A Bright Future for Alberta's Farmers' Market (cont'd)

A typical baked goods stall

It was not uncommon last year to find markets operating in legion halls, community centres and, sometimes even from the back of a farm truck.

Last June the atmosphere of Edmonton's very first market was recreated at Fort Edmonton Park where stallholders, dressed in period costumes, displayed their wares on old fashioned rustic-type tables, much to the delight of the thousands of shoppers.

"Farmers' markets", says Mr. Ness, "have become community features and are a delight to young and old as well as to buyers and sellers. They add greatly to the spirit of friendliness of our province". Last summer the Alberta Beach farmers' market held contests which attracted townspeople and tourists all summer. In one contest, the stallholders wore hats made of paper plates and vegetables which were judged by the market management. The Lloydminster farmers' market holds a hugh ethnic dinner each fall, which was attended by more than 800 people last year.

In essence, farmers' markets are good value and interesting places to visit. Where else can you watch a threshing bee, see a sheep being sheared, participate in a speciality cooking demonstration, or discuss the finer points of design with a skilled craftsman while getting high quality goods and service for your shopping dollar?

January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR NEW GRAZING RESERVES ESTABLISHED IN ALBERTA

The four new grazing reserves that were announced at the end of last year for the north and central regions of Alberta will be developed mainly on grey wooded soils and will have a total area of approximately 54,000 acres. They are expected to be open for limited use in about 1981.

The three reserves scheduled for the Peace River region will be located in the High Level --- Fort Vermilion area; the Blueberry Mountain district northwest of Spirit River and the Bear Canyon district northwest of Fairview. The fourth is to be established in the Medicine Lake district west of Ponoka.

When the grazing reserves have been fully developed, approximately 31,000 of the 54,000 acres will have been converted to tame pasture capable of carrying about 4,200 head of livestock each year.

The reserves are being developed with funds appropriated from the capital portion of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, according to Dallas Schmidt, associate minister of Energy and Natural Resources responsible for public lands. He said that about $26 million was committed from the fund in the fall of 1976 as part of an on-going program committed to the development of 15 to 18 new grazing reserves over the next 10 years.

In Alberta grazing reserves are developed on carefully selected public lands and are partially seeded to tame forage. They are intended to provide summer grazing for livestock belonging to local farmers and ranchers who do not have sufficient grazing land of their own and are managed by public lands staff who are assisted by local advisory boards. These boards are made up of reserve patrons. In this province special emphasis is placed on multiple use of the land set aside for grazing reserves. This means that resources such as timber, wildlife and recreation areas are protected.

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January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1977 IN REVIEW

Despite last year's rather unique growing conditions and an extremely difficult harvesting season, the yields and grades of most field crops in Alberta turned out better than had been expected, according to Fred Boyce, statistician with Alberta Agriculture.

He reports that of the major crops only wheat had yields below the long-term average. Barley and rapeseed yields established new provincial records, while good yields were reported for most of the other crops.

However, the quality of the 1977 crops was substantially lower than that of the previous year. "Frost damage", says Mr. Boyce, "reduced the quality and bushel weights of many late-seeded crops in northern areas, and the prolonged cool, wet weather during harvest caused substantial deterioration in the grades of most cereal and oilseed crops". Bleaching, sprouting, discoloration and mildew apparently caused a reduction of one or two grades in many cereal grains with the result that they ended up in the lower priced feed grade categories. According to Mr. Boyce, oilseed quality was also reduced, and there was a corresponding increase in the dockage percentage. Although frost damage during harvest caused some losses in the potato crop, most of the small area crops were harvested in relatively good condition.

Statistics Canada estimates of the average yields per acre of the principal grains grown in Alberta last year are as follows. The figures in brackets represent the previous five-year average.

Rapeseed	22.1	(17.8)	Wheat	24.4	(28.2)
Flaxseed	15.8	(15.0)	Oats	58.1	(54.7)
Barley	45.8	(41.5)	Rye	25.0	(25.5)

Insects and Disease

Insects and disease did not cause serious problems last year. Only a few areas of the province reported any spraying for grasshopper control as a result of the very light hatch that occurred during the spring and early summer. However, flea beetles were quite numerous

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1977 In Review (cont'd)

in rapeseed fields, especially in the northern and northeastern areas of the province. Mr. Boyce reports a limited amount of spraying was done and that some fields were reseeded. "Overall crop damage from insects was very light last year", he says.

Although the excessively wet conditions caused disease problems in barley and rapeseed fields in some Peace River and northern areas, crop disease problems as a whole were relatively few.

Hail Damage

The number of hail storms that occurred in 1977 was greater than in 1976 and greater than the long-term average, but the storms were less intense. Also, they were relatively localized as opposed to travelling hundreds of miles with a corresponding hailswath. Consequently, damage claims were considerably lower than usual. However, claims resulting from such things as drought, wildlife damage and unseeded summerfallow because of excessively wet conditions and flooding are expected to be higher than normal.

Forage

"Hay yields were generally good last year", says Mr. Boyce, "but poor weather caused most of the hay to be put up in only fair condition". Southern Alberta was the main exception from the point of view of yields. Here the rainfall was much lighter than it was in northern and central regions, and many farmers used their cereal crops for greenfeed or grazing. In fact, the fodder shortage in this part of the province resulted in reliance on straw, grain and imported fodder as well as in some herd reductions. However, Mr. Boyce says the late fall grazing, a generally good hay crop, ample supplies of feed grain and the fact that a substantial amount of straw was put up for feed, should ensure adequate livestock feed in most of the province for the remainder of the winter.

Livestock

Cattle numbers in Alberta declined by just over 4 per cent last year compared with 1976. Mr. Boyce attributes the decline in part to unattractive cattle prices and in part to the

- (cont'd) -

1977 In Review (cont'd)

adverse weather conditions that prevailed in southern Alberta. He says hog numbers have increased by more than 3 per cent as a result of favorable prices. The sheep and lamb population continues to decline and is now estimated to be 160,000 head.

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January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED SITUATION

Order your forage seed now to avoid disappointment, advises Myron Bjorge, Alberta Agriculture's range management specialist at Rocky Mountain House.

He reports that the seed supply of bromegrass, orchardgrass, meadow foxtail, Kentucky bluegrass, tall wheatgrass, streambank wheatgrass, redtop, alfalfa, red clover and birdsfoot trefoil are all much below what will be required and that reed canarygrass seed is extremely scarce.

Although seed supplies of creeping red fescue, crested wheatgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, alsike clover and sweetclover are almost normal, they could come under pressure because they are likely to be substituted whenever possible for those forages that are in short supply. However, seed supplies of timothy and Russian wildrye should be adequate to meet a normal demand.

Mr. Bjorge urges farmers to make their forage seed purchases early so that more Alberta-grown seed will be kept in the province and seed dealers can buy more high quality seed from out-of-province sources before they run out.

Since forage seed is going to be expensive this year, Mr. Bjorge suggests that farmers include in their seed mixtures only those forage species that will contribute to an increase in yield. He points out that forage yields can often be increased by planting a mixture consisting of only two species as opposed to planting a more complicated mixture. ''More emphasis'', he says, ''should be placed on the preparation of a good seed bed, the use of a seed drill that was designed for seeding forage crops and seeding at the optimum time''.

Forage seed requirements can also be reduced by prolonging the life of existing hay and pasture fields. In the case of seeded pastures this can be done by avoiding early spring grazing, practising rotational grazing, stocking the pasture at the optimum rate and applying an adequate amount of fertilizer. Using an adequate amount of fertilizer and cutting hay at the proper time will prolong the productive life of hay stands, especially alfalfa. Since all these factors also increase hay and pasture yields, they represent a very practical method of indirectly decreasing reseeding costs

January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

by Dr. Frank Baker
Alberta Agriculture Extension Veterinarian

In an age when we talk knowingly about the lack of various nutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, and warn against the dangers of energy and protein deficiencies, we often tend to forget the importance of the most vital nutrient of all - - - water ! It is second only to air as a basic requirement for life, and yet, because of its usually abundant supply, it often does not receive the attention that it warrants.

Water should be available to cattle at all times. Consumption varies with the age and type of animal. Beef cattle, for example, drink five to six times every 24 hours while dairy cattle drink 10 times every 24 hours. Studies at the University of Guelph in Ontario showed the water consumption of beef cattle on a maintenance and fattening ration to be as follows:

Total Daily Water Intake By Beef Cattle (in lbs.)

Animal Weight (lbs.)	Air Temperature		
	10°C	21°C	32°C
400	20 - 36	25 - 48	40 - 80
600	25 - 48	32 - 65	50 - 100
800	30 - 63	40 - 85	64 - 140
1000	38 - 80	50 - 110	80 - 180

Dairy cattle which were allowed free access to water drank mostly between 7 and 9 a.m. and between 6 and 8 p.m. Cows with a continuous supply of water drank 18 per cent more water and produced 3.5 per cent more milk and 10.7 per cent more butterfat than cows which had access to water only twice a day. With a 6°C rise in temperature,

- (cont'd) -

water consumption increased 75 per cent. Dry Holstein cows drank nine gallons of water per day compared with 19 gallons per day for milking cows. Calves drank one to five gallons per day.

The National Research Council recommends that water allowances for cattle be increased by 50 per cent during the last four months of pregnancy.

Despite the fact that it is generally considered to be of little consequence to the average producer, water quality is important too. Water with a high saline content is probably of greatest concern. Dr. P. J. Martin, Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionist, says that water should not be a limiting factor in ruminant production as long as:

- It contains less than 7,000 p p m (parts per million) of total salts. Animals on maintenance rations or older animals on production rations can likely cope with much higher levels (10,000 p p m)
- It contains less than 100 p p m nitrate.
- It does not contain fecal contaminants or algal toxins.
- It is readily available.

The water requirements of cattle, particularly beef cattle, are often neglected during the winter. While it is true that cattle can, and obviously do, survive on the range with only snow to sustain their water requirements, there is no doubt that they are in much better health and more efficient producers when they are supplied with a good source of water. The considerable effort required to obtain enough snow to meet an animal's water requirements reduces the energy available for food gathering efforts. Also, much body heat is required to melt the snow in the animal's stomach, and this heat must come from the animal's food. Again, this energy is not available for meat or milk production.

If the source of water is a slough or creek, an ice-free area should be maintained. If water is supplied in tanks or waterers, heaters should be provided to make the water

- (cont'd) -

Water and Livestock Production (cont'd)

available. It is not necessary to heat the water further.

While water sources under range conditions should be located far enough apart to provide sufficient daily exercise for the cattle, these sources should not be located so far apart that the amount of walking the cattle must do will use up energy that would otherwise be available for the production of meat or milk. In fact, cattle should not have to travel more than two miles to water, and this distance should be reduced if the terrain is rough.

A good water supply, freely available at all times, is essential for efficient livestock production.

January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM TRAINEES PASS TESTS

Twenty-one of Alberta's 28 Green Certificate Program trainees who were tested recently passed their level I examinations and four passed their level II examinations. The other three candidates failed.

The students, who were from the Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Barrhead and Vermilion areas, took their examinations at the Vermilion Lakeland College. This location was chosen because the farm has suitable facilities for testing beef, dryland crop and dairy production skills.

The examinations consisted of a brief oral test and a practical demonstration at various testing areas of specific skills. Trainees who took the farm machinery test had to operate a piece of machinery and demonstrate that they understood how it worked. They also had to show that they were able to detect a problem before it could cause a costly breakdown. In the beef test, trainees had to know the nutritional requirements of animals in general and to prepare feed rations for the animals in the testing area. The examination in the dairy section covered milking, artificial insemination, medication administration and testing for mastitis.

A young farmer who takes training under the Green Certificate Program must demonstrate ability in all the skills required for proficiency in his chosen area of specialization. When he achieves the level of performance in a particular skill that the farmer who is training him considers satisfactory, and which meets the standards outlined under the program, the farmer initials the skill on the training plan. When all the skills have been initialed, the trainee is examined by a board made up of a representative of Alberta Agriculture, a college instructor and at least one training farmer who had no part in the trainees' instruction.

Trainees who pass the level I examination are qualified as general farm workers in their area of specialization. Those who pass the level II examinations usually become herdsmen or farm foremen.

January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE 4-H APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, Ted Youck, has announced the appointments of three new staff members.

Gail E. Horner has been appointed 4-H program co-ordinator, Don Glover has been appointed regional 4-H specialist for the northwest region of the province and Brian Matthiessen has been appointed regional 4-H specialist in training at Lethbridge.

Gail Horner

As program co-ordinator, Ms. Horner will be located in Edmonton and will be responsible for co-ordinating 4-H club travel and exchange programs and summer camps.

She grew up on a mixed farm north of Edmonton and was a member of a clothing and beef club as well as a member of the northwest region 4-H council. She won the National Club Conference award in 1967.

Ms. Horner graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.A. (recreation administration) in 1973, having specialized in group dynamics and community organizational processes.

After graduation, Ms. Horner worked with a youth development centre in Edmonton as assistant community service and volunteer co-ordinator. In late 1973 she joined Canada World Youth/Jeunesse Canada Monde, as a group leader and escorted 10 young Canadians on a cross-cultural exchange program to Malaysia. Following this she co-ordinated a program for 35 Malaysians who visited Canada. In 1975 she worked with the Edmonton City Social Services in such capacities as community service worker with senior citizens and recreational officer for the Edmonton Childrens Centre.

Don Glover

Mr. Glover will be located in Barrhead and will be responsible for administering regional 4-H programs. He will also act as a liaison between 4-H headquarters in Edmonton and local 4-H clubs and provide assistance and advice to these clubs.

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Three 4-H Appointments Announced (cont'd)

He grew up on a farm in Ontario and attended the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph. He obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1975. After graduation Mr. Glover worked for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as assistant agricultural representative. Prior to his present appointment, he was feed representative for Co-op Feeds in Lethbridge.

Brian Matthiessen

Mr. Matthiessen will be located in Lethbridge where, in addition to acting as a liaison between 4-H headquarters and the local clubs, he will administer regional 4-H programs and provide assistance and advice to the local clubs.

He was raised on a mixed farm in the Heisler area in central Alberta and was a member of the Heisler 4-H dairy club. He graduated from the University of Alberta in the spring of 1977 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). Following graduation he worked as a trainee on the Green Certificate Farm Training Program.

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January 9, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWINE TECHNICIAN APPOINTED

Sam Harbison, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of swine breeding, has announced the appointment of Ian Clark to the position of regional swine technician at Red Deer.

Mr. Clark will be responsible for implementing the Alberta pork industry branch's ultrasonic home testing program in an area south of an eastwest line through Westaskiwin to a similar line through Calgary. It is anticipated that he will also help to train hog men in the same area to use artificial insemination on their farms, and that he will be involved in on-farm followup of all pork industry branch programs that come under the direction of the regional swine specialist, Fred Schuld.

Mr. Clark was born in England, where he worked on beef and sheep farms prior to attending the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester in 1968. He graduated in 1971 with a national diploma in agriculture and a diploma in advanced farm management. Following graduation he worked with beef cattle and then managed a 100 sow farrow-to-finish unit which was associated with the Cotswold Pig Development Company.

Mr. Clark emigrated to Canada in 1974 and took a position managing a beef and corn farm in Quebec. Eighteen months later he moved to a ranch near Calgary. Last year he joined Alberta Agriculture as supervisor for refilling dugouts under the drought relief program.

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AGRI-NEWS

January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK DISASTER INDEMNITY PROGRAM TO BE REPLACED

Marvin E. Moore, minister of Alberta Agriculture, has announced that the Alberta Livestock Disaster Indemnity Program, with exception of losses due to predators, was terminated on December 31, 1977.

The Livestock Disaster Indemnity Program was initiated in 1972 as an interim provision to compensate farmers for losses of livestock due to factors outside their control, where such factors were not covered under existing insurance policies. It was the initial intent to phase out this program at such time that adequate insurance programs were available.

In September 1976, Mr. Moore announced availability of a new livestock insurance program developed through cooperation of the insurance industry, farm organizations and government. He indicated at that time that the new insurance program would ultimately replace the livestock disaster indemnity program, with exception of predator loss.

The insurance program for cattle has since been revised to include 17 named perils, including losses of animals from fire, drowning, electrocution, vandalism, storms, explosion, transportation, collapse of buildings, accidental shooting and collision. This coverage is available at 50¢ per $100 value of animal.

Named Peril Disaster Coverage is available for an additional premium of 50¢ per $100 value. This added coverage includes losses of animals resulting from suffocation due to animals piling, electrical failures, smoke, scaring or spooking, indirect losses due to storms, poisoning and new diseases.

Insurance programs to cover poultry and swine are in the final stages of development and should be on the market in the near future.

One of the unique features of this program is an arbitration board, independent of the insurers, that is established to rule on "grey area" claims and other disputed losses. The board provides an avenue of appeal at no cost to the producer.

Further details of this program are attainable from your local insurance agent or district agriculturist.

January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMOKY RIVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT

The Smoky River Agricultural Society, located at Donnelly, is to receive a $40,000 grant under the Agricultural Societies Program. The announcement was made by Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore.

The Agricultural Societies Program provides grants on a dollar for dollar basis up to a maximum of $50,000 to rural communities that want to develop agricultural, recreational or cultural facilities. This means that for every dollar raised by the community, Alberta Agriculture will contribute a dollar up to $50,000. The $50,000 is a once in a life time grant which can be taken in portions or all at one time.

The building that has been built by the Smoky River Agricultural Society is a 24,000 square foot structure that will be used for agricultural fairs, horse shows, machinery demonstrations, cultural activities and as a natural ice skating arena. It will also be used by the schools in the area for sport activities.

When he announced the grant, Mr. Moore congratulated the Smoky River Agricultural Society on the facilities which will accommodate many of the diversified activities of the people in the Donnelly area.

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January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW TECHNIQUE ESTABLISHED FOR DETERMINING WHEAT VARIETIES

Scientists in Britain have developed a laboratory technique which can identify wheat varieties by discovering the protein unit pattern.

Known as electrophoresis, the technique has been developed at the Lord Rank Research Centre at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. It involves grinding up a random sample of the wheat that is to be tested and then dissolving out the protein with alcohol.

The technique is reported to be a foolproof way of identifying wheat varieties. Scientists at the research centre have established that the protein pattern of a variety remains the same regardless of the soil or climatic conditions under which it was grown. Even heavy applications of a nitrogen fertilizer do not alter the pattern; they merely emphasize the overall intensity.

Larry Gareau, of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch believes such a test could be a real help to Canadian farmers buying commercial seed. By taking the sample to a laboratory, they could determine exactly what variety or mixture of varieties they were buying. Since only pedigreed seed carries a guarantee of a varietal name under the Canada Seeds Act regulations, at the present time the purchaser of commercial or common seed has no assurance of the varieties being offered.

"Electrophoresis could also be used to help establish the identity of a grain lot that was stolen", Mr. Gareau points out.

He does not see why the same technique could not be used to determine varieties and varietal purity in oilseeds, corn and forage crops.

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January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIMING AND SOIL ACIDITY

by Mike Rudakewich
Regional Plant Industry Supervisor
Alberta Agriculture, Fairview

The Peace River region is well known for its large geographic area in terms of cultivated agricultural land, undeveloped agricultural potential and forest and woodland reserves. Not as well known is the extent of soil acidity that affects land already in cultivation or the 12 million acres of land that are considered potentially arable.

The Research Station at Beaverlodge has been involved in studies on soil acidity in the Peace for nearly 15 years now. Their estimate of the soil acidity problem is that there are 2 million acres of cultivated land with a low enough pH to restrict the growth of alfalfa, the most acid-sensitive crop. A half million acres, they estimate, are acidic to the point of needing lime. Yields of barley and rape may be restricted on 250,000 acres of soil where the pH is 5.7 or lower.

What causes soils to become acidified? Perhaps the main cause of the extensive prevalence is the fact that many of our soils had a fairly lengthy development while under tree cover and a higher rainfall climate. Tree vegetation provides for shading and subsequent higher soil moisture levels, which, together with acid leached from the leaves, cause naturally occurring lime to be leached downward to depths of 24 - 36 inches or more.

As lime is removed from the soil profile which is to become the "plow layer", the pH is lowered and acidity increases.

Extensive use of sulphur-containing fertilizers will also increase soil acidification. An application of 100 lbs/acre of 21-0-0 will require 110 lbs of lime to neutralize the 24 lbs of sulphur in the 21-0-0. Pure nitrogen fertilizers also have an acidifying effect. A 100 lb/acre application of 34-0-0 as ammonium nitrate will require 59 lbs. of lime to balance the acid effect.

Legumes are well known for their calcium content, and are favored as a fodder for dairy cattle, which have a higher calcium requirement. Removal of legumes from land which produces them consequently has an acidifying effect. It takes 200 lbs/acre of lime to replace the

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Liming and Soil Acidity (cont'd)

calcium removed by a 2 ton per acre altalfa crop.

A new source of potential soil acidification is the emission of sulphur from sour gas plants or industrial plants. Because of the nature of sulphur emission from these sources, it is difficult to determine where the acidification will take place, or to what extent. Some sources of information suggest that soils affected by emissions of sulphur gas could in 10 years drop one full unit in pH reading.

All these factors point in the same direction. Liming as a soil management practice in the Peace is inevitable. Some is being done now in a very limited way. More farmers probably would lime their land, but the high cost of the lime itself, and the unavailability of lime and of application equipment have kept liming to an experimental practice only.

Current costs of lime at $10 to $30/ton (depending on the source and nature of the material) would require a capital outlay of from $10 to $30/acre for marl, an unrefined lime material, to $30 to $90/acre for refined or ground limestone, either of which should last for about ten years.

(Volume 4, Number 7, July 1977 issue of "People, Plans and the Peace")

January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING THE BEST USE OF CREDIT

by Peter Funk
Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist
at Rocky Mountain House

The large capital investment and financing requirements of modern farming make the use of credit increasingly important. However, if credit is to be effective in improving farm income, it must be used wisely.

The following points should be considered:

Plan for credit carefully. Budgeting can be used to show whether a loan would be economical.

- Consider loan costs and terms in relation to the capacity for repayment. This means shopping for credit (comparing types of loans, credit agencies and credit terms); determining the amount of the annual payment and the length of the loan period and determining the debt limit of the farm on the basis of expected earnings and repayment ability.
- Use credit wherever it promises to return more than it costs. If credit is limited, the amount available should be invested where it will give the highest returns. Budgeting will help in comparing the profitability of alternatives.
- Wherever possible, arrange for suitably flexible loan terms to allow for crop failures and other risks and also to permit earlier repayment if desired.
- Consolidate credit use as much as possible under one credit plan. This practice will allow greater use and better handling of credit than if it is obtained piecemeal and from too many different agencies.

Because the cost of credit varies considerably from one lending agency to another, it is just as important to shop for credit as it is to shop for the best buy in machinery, land, etc. However, it is often difficult to determine from many of the credit sources just what the true cost of a loan is. Interest rates may be quoted over differing time periods, on a discount basis

- (cont'd) -

Making The Best Use Of Credit (cont'd)

or on an installment basis. Many lenders even include such items as insurance and legal fees in the finance charges.

The various types of interest calculations may be summarized as follows:

- Simple Interest Loans - interest is charged against the unpaid balance of a loan and is calculated on an annual basis. Quoted and true interest rates are the same.
- Discount Loans - the lender usually deducts the interest from the face value of the loan. Because interest is paid in advance, the true rate of interest is always slightly higher than the quoted rate.
- Installment and Retail Credit - the lender charges interest against the whole amount of the original loan for the entire loan period even though regular payments are made on an installment basis (monthly, semi-annually, yearly, etc.). The true rates of interest are approximately double the quoted rate.

The best way to compare the costs of the various types of loans is to convert the costs to a true interest rate for various loan types:

$$\text{True Interest Rate} = \frac{2 \times \text{Number of Payments in a Year} \times \text{Finance Charges}}{\text{Loan} \times (\text{Total Number of Payments} + 1)}$$

January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1978 PESTICIDE APPLICATORS TRAINING PROGRAM

The deadline for registering for Alberta's annual Pesticide Applicators Training Program is February 21. Anyone who registers after that date will be assessed a $5 late registration fee.

The course will be held at Olds College in Olds from March 6 to 17 and will include training for the following types of licences.

- Class A Applicator's Licence: It is required for the general use of pesticides in agricultural and rural areas. Anyone applying a pesticide on a commercial basis to livestock, crops, shelterbelts or buildings requires this license.
- Class B Applicator's Licence: It is required for the general use of pesticides by a person employed by a government or public agency.
- Class D Applicator's Licence: It is a specific license that entitles the holder to use pesticide to prevent or control the growth of vegetation along power lines, roadsides, railways or other rights-of-way as well as to control aquatic vegetation.
- Class E Applicator's Licence: It is required in the aerial application of pesticides.
- Class G Applicator's Licence: It is required for the commercial use of pesticides in non-agricultural and urban areas. It covers the use of pesticides in public gardens and on public lawns in villages, towns and cities as well as on shrubs and trees in parks and recreational areas.

Training for a Class C applicator's licence,required by anybody using seed treatment compounds; a Class F applicator's license, required for the commercial use of pesticides in buildings in urban and non-agricultural areas, and a Class H applicator's license, required for the commercial application of pesticides in special situations, is not covered by the course.

People who take the course can register for all or part of the program, but it is recommended that they take that part of the course in the second week that applies to their

- (cont'd) -

1978 Pesticide Applicators Training Program (cont'd)

particular area of work. The second week is basically designed for previously trained applicators and for those involved in special pesticide application work.

Applicants who have very limited experience in the use of pesticides can prepare themselves for the rather intensive course at Olds by taking the home study course that is being offered by the Lakeland College in Vermilion by correspondence.

The tuition fee for the Pesticide Applicators Training Program, which includes mimeographed notes, is $6 per day and the charge for room and board at the college will be $6.50 per day. Accommodation at the college is limited, but meals will be available for everyone.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from the Division of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA SEED GROWERS SHORT COURSE

Researchers from nine western states and provinces are scheduled to present the latest alfalfa seed research and management techniques to the annual Northwest Alfalfa Seed Short Course at the Red Lion Motor Inn in Pasco, Washington, from January 23 - 25.

Several of the speakers will focus on the increasingly important leaf-cutting bee for alfalfa seed pollination. Topics will include insect enemies of the leaf cutter, chalkbrood disease, and management techniques.

Other speakers will discuss alfalfa varieties and production, weeds, plant disease and insect pest management.

Designed for alfalfa seed growers, dealers, processors and fieldmen, the short course is sponsored by the Interstate Alfalfa Seed Council and is hosted by the Washington State University Co-operative Extension Service. The registration fee is $12.

Additional information can be obtained from Elvin Kulp, Box 608, Ephrata, Washington 98823, U.S.A.

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January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL TREE PRUNING COURSES

If you would like to attend one of the Alberta Agriculture's popular annual tree pruning courses, you had better get your application in as soon as possible.

Two of these two-day courses will take place simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) on March 7 and 8. The third will be held at Fairview on March 14 and 15. Attendance at each courses is limited to 30. However, if any of the courses are oversubscribed, as has been the case over the last two years, an attempt will be made to accommodate the extra people in another course. It will be held at any of the three locations immediately following the scheduled course.

Although the courses are designed for people whose jobs involve trees and who are self-employed in this type of work, they are open to anybody interested in tree maintenance and beautification. A total of 166 people attended last year's courses, and there are already more than 50 preregistration applicants for this year's courses.

Each course covers specific pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees, and is arranged in such a way that participants have ample opportunity to practise what they learn in the classroom. The courses will also cover insect and disease control as it relates to pruning; tree structural growth; tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties that are recommended for Alberta.

The deadline for applications for any of the courses in March 1. Forms can be obtained from the Horticultural Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. The registration fee for the two-day courses is only $10.

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January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEANING DOWN-FILLED JACKETS

If you do not have a dry cleaner that you know does a good job, you would probably be wise to launder your family's down-filled jackets rather than have them cleaned.

Charlene Leeson, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Red Deer, says that if the wrong solvent is used on down-filled jackets it could strip the natural lanolin from the down, leaving it dry and brittle. The wrong solvent could also fill up the stems of the feathers which would make it almost impossible to dry the jacket.

If you decide to launder your down-filled jacket, first check the seams to make sure there are no small holes or rips because you could end up with a wash-tub full of feathers. Then turn the jacket inside out. If it has a belt put it in a zippered pocket.

According to Ms. Leeson, many dealers and manufacturers recommended Woolite for cleaning down-filled garments. Since it is a cold water wash, and not a soap, it will not leave a film.

Ms. Leeson recommends using a quarter of a cup of Woolite in a washing machine or a capful if you are washing a small child's jacket by hand. If the jacket is very soiled, you can spot clean the soiled area by dampening it with water and then spotting it with Woolite or you can presoak the garment in Woolite and water for about 30 minutes before you wash it.

You can dry the jacket by hanging it up for a couple of days. Then put it in the dryer for a short time to fluff up the down, or you can put the jacket directly into the dryer which should be set at a low to medium heat. It will probably take an hour or more before the jacket is completely dry. To keep the down from matting, Ms. Leeson suggests putting a clean running shoe into the dryer. She says the tumbling action of the shoe in the dryer will fluff up the down in the jacket. However, the zipper should be done up or the bouncing action of the shoe will cause the zipper to cut the fabric.

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January 16, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Ralph Berkan, associate director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the following district agriculturist appointments.

John Van Keulen

John Van Keulen has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Medicine Hat. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1976 with an M.Sc. (animal science) and has been in training at the Lacombe district extension office for the past year.

Gerald Pilger

Gerald Pilger will be moving to Smoky Lake on February 1 as co-district agriculturist at that office. He is a 1977 agriculture graduate of the University of Alberta and has been district agriculturist in training in the High River office since last May.

Doug Walkey

Doug Walkey will become district agriculturist at Drayton Valley sometime in the early part of this year. He is a 1977 agriculture graduate of the University of Alberta and has been in training at Morinville since he joined Alberta Agriculture in May of last year. His move to Drayton Valley will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Spence Goddard who has taken an overseas assignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Ernie Smith

Ernie Smith has begun his district agriculturist training at Lacombe where he will be working with district agriculturist Gerry Winia. He is a recent graduate in agriculture from the University of Alberta.

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January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK (CATTLE) INSURANCE PROGRAM

Alberta's Livestock (Cattle) Insurance Program has undergone a few changes since it was initiated two years ago in response to requests from some of the farmers using the program and from some who plan to use it.

Mainly intended to protect farmers against disaster situations, the program is unique in that it was developed through the co-operation of the insurance industry, members of the cattle organizations and the Alberta Government. Although it is a private sector program which covers purebred and grade beef and dairy cattle, it has a government established independent arbitration board for "grey area" claims. It replaces all sections of the Livestock Indemnity Program except the one pertaining to predator losses. Predator losses will continue to be covered under the indemnity program.

The changes to the Livestock (Cattle) Insurance Program include a new format, the addition of two perils, the deletion of frothy bloat, a different method of insuring cattle and different deductible plans.

The revised program is divided into Part A (Named Perils) and Part B (Named Perils Disaster Coverage). Both must be included in any policy.

Part A covers drowning and floods; electrocution including lightning; fire; riot, riot attending a strike or civil commotion; falling aircraft or falling objects from an aircraft; vandalism and malicious acts other than those caused by the insured, his representative or others who have care, custody or control of the animals; wind, cyclone, tempest, tornado, storm, hail and blizzards; explosions; transportation with the exclusion of any animals being transported by a common carrier with P.S.V. licence plates; collapse of roofs and buildings; theft, excluding escape or mysterious disappearance (addition to the program); and collision of any animal with a vehicle except those owned or operated by the insured (addition to the program).

- (cont'd) -

Livestock (Cattle) Insurance Program (cont'd)

Part B covers suffocation, including suffocation caused by animals piling on top of each other, the collapse of a roof or building, an electrical failure, smoke, scaring or spooking; indirect losses which cover death within five days that results from sickness caused by wind, a cyclone, tempest, storm, hail or blizzard; poisoning; and new diseases that are declared by Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division. Diseases named or declared under or added to the federal government's Contagious Diseases Act are not covered.

There are now two methods instead of one that farmers can use to insure their cattle under the program. One is the unscheduled method where the animals are insured on an animal unit basis. An animal unit consists of a mature cow, an in-calf heifer, a yearling steer or a yearling heifer. A calf that is six to 12 months old is considered to be half an animal unit, and a calf that is less than six months old is automatically insured under its dam's premium. With this method the whole herd is insured to a maximum value of $1,000 per animal unit.

If the number of animal units varies by more than 10 per cent during the term of the policy, the owner is expected to report the fluctuation to his insurance agent. If the number decreases, he will receive a rebate on his premium. If it increases, he will be assessed an additional premium. If he does not report an increase of more than 10 per cent, and he has a claim, his claim will be proportionately reduced.

Under the other method, which is called the scheduled method, a farmer lists his cattle on an individual basis. With this method he can insure them up to a maximum of $5,000 per head.

The revised version of the Livestock (Cattle) Insurance Program contains two deductible plans from which farmers can choose. The original program contained four.

In Plan I there is no deductible clause in Part A of the program, but there is a 5 per cent deductible clause in Part B where the minimum number of animals that can be deducted is two and the maximum number is 15. This policy covers 90 per cent of the full value of the insured animals,and the premium is $1 per $100 of insured value.

- (cont'd) -

Livestock (Cattle) Insurance Program (cont'd)

In Plan II there is a 5 per cent deductible clause in both Part A and Part B of the program. The minimum number of animals that can be deducted under either part is two and the maximum number is 15. This policy also covers 90 per cent of the full value of the insured animals, and the premium is 70¢ per $100 of insured value.

Similar insurance programs for swine and poultry are in the final stages of development and should be available to Alberta farmers in the near future.

Further information on the cattle insurance program can be obtained from Ken C. Davies, P. Ag. Agri Insurance Services, 707 Imperial Bank Building, 9990 - Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, T5J IP6, (Telephone 426-5325).

January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REBUILDING A CATTLE HERD

Cattlemen who rebuild their beef herds on the basis of a carefully thought out plan will reap the benefits for many years to come.

This is the opinion of Alberta Agriculture's livestock specialist, Ross Gould, who emphasizes that each plan should be tailored to an individual's specific situation. Many commercial beef producers can benefit from the use of a crossbreeding program that includes crossbred cows. ''Research studies'', says Mr. Gould, ''have shown that crossbred cows are usually more fertile and better mothers than straightbred animals, particularly at the younger ages.

He strongly recommends that cattlemen select breeds for their crossbreeding programs that fit their specific management and feeding conditions. For example, an Angus-Hereford cross would fit into a minimum management and feeding operation much better than the larger exotic cross cows that require more attention and more feed.

The Angus-Hereford cross has proved very satisfactory and very popular with cattlemen with minimum management and feeding operations. On the other hand, the exotic cross cows may be better than the conventional British breeds for cattle producers who feed their own calves to slaughter because the calves from these animals often have a better post-weaning rate of gain than the calves from the more conventional breeds. Cow-calf producers who are prepared to give the larger exotic cattle the extra attention and feed may also benefit from heavier weaning weights.

Next the cattle producer who is building up his herd must choose the breed of bull he is going to use on his crossbred cows. He may choose to have a one bull herd and to use one breed of bull for three years. In this case he will select his herd replacements during the last two years that he has the bull and bring in a new bull for the next three years. A more complicated, specialized crossing program, involving a continuing two-way rotation of two maternal breeds

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Rebuilding a Cattle Herd (cont'd)

may be used by a larger rancher who is prepared to plan his breeding program carefully and is able to segregate his breeding herds into the necessary groups.

Some cattle producers like to rebuild their herd from the natural increase of a small nucleus, while others prefer to purchase at least some new animals. "In either case", says Mr. Gould, "the herd owner should make sure the feet and legs and the reproductive organs of the animals are sound. In the case of young cattle, he should check their past performance, particularly from the point of view of adjusted yearling or weanling weights." Record of performance information is kept by most progressive seed stock producers in Alberta.

According to Mr. Gould, the most important consideration when purchasing heifers or bulls is to buy them from a herd owner whose selection goals are similar to your own. Unless the selection in the seed stock herd is directed to the same goals that you have set for your commercial herd, the results of your purchase may prove disappointing. Commercial producers can avoid these disappointments by discussing with the seed stock producer his goals, his selection procedures and his herd's past performance history.

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January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOISTURE PROSPECTS FOR 1978 AND 1977 WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

Alberta's soil moisture and spring run-off prospects for agriculture are considerably brighter than they were at this time last year.

Alberta Agriculture's agrometeorologist, Conrad Gietz, reports that last fall's rains went a long way towards restoring soil moisture levels in the southern part of the province and that most fall-seeded crops got off to a good start. He adds that this winter's heavy snow fall, compared with that of last year in the southern half of the province should further improve soil moisture conditions and spring run-off in those areas that were deficient in 1977.

In general, the 1977 growing season was cooler than normal in central Alberta, but the mean temperature in the Peace River region and in the eastern part of the province was near or above normal.

From April through August precipitation was generally above normal in all agricultural areas north of Red Deer. However, it was generally drier than normal further south, especially in areas south of Calgary and west of Medicine Hat. Last year's open winter contributed to the lack of moisture in central and southern areas.

Substantial rainfalls in May helped to normalize the soil moisture situation in Alberta except in the southwest where it remained dry. Both pastures and the overall forage supply situation improved greatly as a result of the May rainfall.

Some general frost damage was recorded in east-central Alberta on August 22 and in the Peace River region and some central areas in early September.

When farmers started harvesting their crops, many were pleasantly surprised at their yields. "It was probably the cool weather", says Mr. Gietz, "during the time heads were filling that prevented the dry condition from greatly reducing yields."

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Moisture Prospects for 1978 and 1977 Weather Highlights (cont'd)

Harvesting operations were interrupted by wet weather in most areas of the province at one time or another, but the rain was not entirely unwelcome in southern Alberta. Prior to it, soil moisture levels had been so low that pastures were threatened and, in many cases, hopes were fast fading that fall-seeded crops would even germinate.

The exceptionally warm dry weather in October and early November of 1977 allowed the harvest to be completed in nearly all areas of Alberta.

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January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLASTIC MULCHES RECOMMENDED

A plastic mulch can be a tremendous boon to horticulture in many parts of Alberta.

This is the conclusion reached at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks after two years of trials in which clear, black, white and aluminum polyethylene plastic (1.5 mil) was used on test plots of cucumbers, melons, tomatoes and corn. The plots were located all the way from Brooks in the south to the Peace River region in the north.

Results to date indicate that vine crops benefit most from a plastic mulch. In the research center's tests, the foliage of these crops was more lush and their yields were greatly improved over those obtained from conventionally grown crops. Plastic mulches also make it possible for crops like watermelons to mature in areas where their maturity would otherwise be marginal. Results with tomatoes were not so encouraging. It appears that the greatly increased vine growth delayed their maturity beyond an acceptable date. Although information on growing corn with a mulch is not complete, the plots in the Peace River region have done well.

Paul Ragan, research horticulturist at the Alberta research center, reports that clear plastic gave results that were far superior to those obtained from the colored plastics. However, clear plastic can only be used on weed-free soil because it promotes rapid weed growth.

Black plastic was found to make the next best mulch. There was no problem with weeds because the black plastic does not allow light to pass through, thereby completely eliminating all weed growth.

According to Mr. Ragan, plastic mulches transmit the heat that they absorb directly into the soil,which enhances both vegetative growth and yields. This added heat, which cannot escape into the air, draws up the soil moisture, and enables the plants to enjoy a more uniform soil moisture level than would otherwise be possible. Mr. Ragan points out that this soil moisture retention factor can be disastrous to vine crops if the weather is cloudy, cold and very wet. "Plastic mulches", he says, "work best in the hot, dry regions of Alberta."

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Plastic Mulches Recommended (cont'd)

A plastic mulch can be laid either before or after the crop has been planted. The soil must be slightly moist or the seeds or transplants may suffer from dehydration early in the season. The soil must also be very smooth (no lumps or ridges) to permit a tight union of plastic and soil. Air spaces between the soil and the plastic will prevent the transfer of heat from the plastic to the soil.

Special mulch applicator machines are available for applying plastic mulches on a commercial scale. "However, home gardeners can do a good job by hand", says Mr. Ragan, "providing they have the soil smooth and level and bury the edges of the plastic in the soil. If the edges are not buried, the wind is likely to catch them and blow the plastic away."

Mr. Ragan recommends making diagonal cuts in plastic that is laid over a row of seeds that are planted close together (e.g. carrots, turnips, etc.) The cuts must be made directly over the row. The diagonal cuts are recommended because the wind is less likely to tear the plastic than is the case with straight cuts.

Cuts two to three inches long in the form of an "X" are recommended for seeds that are planted several inches apart and for transplants. Again the cuts should be made directly over the seeds if the seeds are planted before the plastic is laid. Since succulent plants like cucumbers and melons are prone to damping-off, larger cuts are recommended for these crops to allow for a greater exchange of air.

Mr. Ragan says transplants should be given water when they are put into the ground. After that the moisture from an irrigation sprinkler system or reasonably regular rains will provide the plants with enough moisture. He also says that hotcaps can be placed over warm weather crops that are being grown with a mulch to give them an early start in areas where frost is likely.

At the end of the growing season the mulch should be pulled up. If it is not torn, it can be used another year. It should never be worked into the soil because it does not decompose.

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Plastic Mulches Recommended (cont'd)

"The advantages of plastic mulches for horticultural crops in areas where they are suitable," Mr. Ragan says, "are that they produce earlier crops and higher yields, control weed growth (except the clear plastic) and conserve moisture."

Further information on plastic mulches can be obtained from Ralph Trimmer, Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FOOD WHOLESALE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN CALGARY

Ten Alberta produce companies and organizations will be exhibiting their products at the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers Convention and Exhibition in Calgary from January 28 to 30.

This will be the first time the convention has been held in Alberta, and it will also be the first time that Alberta produce companies have taken part in it. Those that will be participating are York Farms; Diamond S. Produce Ltd.; the Alberta Potato Commission; the Edmonton Potato Growers (1971) Ltd.; Pak Wel Produce Co. Ltd; Newell Vegetables Co-op Ltd.; the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board; Pheasant Valley Farms Ltd.; Great Plains Mushrooms and Prairie Mushrooms.

"The exhibits at this year's convention will range all the way from flowering plants and transportation equipment to Mexican and Moroccan fruits and vegetables," says Susan Kitchen, Alberta Agriculture's food marketing officer in Calgary.

The objective of those who attend the convention is to learn more about the produce business from both the national and international points of view. Participants will include brokers, retail and wholesale distributors, transportation company representatives, fruit and vegetable growers and others connected with the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.

Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, professor of horticulture, assistant dean of agriculture and director of the experimental station at Michigan State University in the U.S.A. will be one of the two main speakers. He is expected to discuss the frontier in food research and his new book entitled "World Food Prospects and Agriculture Potential".

The other main speaker will be Donald J. Kirchoff, president of Castle & Cooke, which is an international food company.

The rest of the convention will consist of panel discussions, one of which will deal with the convention's theme, "Natural y Nutritious." The well-known Canadian nutritionist, Dr. Zak Sabry, will be participating in this panel discussion.

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January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URINARY CALCULI IN SHEEP

Urinary calculi, also called water belly and gravel or kidney stones, is basically a nutritional disease of sheep, goats and cattle.

Although the exact cause is not known, experiments have shown a high incidence of the condition occurs in sheep when there is a high potassium intake, an incorrect calcium phosphorus ratio or the ration is highly alkaline. According to Don Sheer, sheep specialist with Alberta Agriculture, high grain rations that are not balanced for calcium and phosphorus, and water with a high mineral content increase the incidence of urinary calculi.

The calculi are small stones in the urinary tract which almost always originate in the kidneys. Mr. Sheer says the condition occurs more often in wethers and rams than it does in ewes because the stones are passed more easily through a ewe's short, wide urethra than they are through the urinary tract of male animals. If the stones are not too large, they will be passed in the urine of either sex with little discomfort.

Symptoms of urinary calculi include frequents attempts to urinate, dribbling or stoppage of urine, pain, restlessness and walking with a straddling gait. If the urine passage is completely blocked, the bladder will become increasingly distended, which, in addition to the straining to urinate, causes the blood supply to part of the bladder wall to be cut off. The result is a ruptured bladder.

Mr. Sheer says that dietary control appears to be of little value once the calculi have developed . He stresses that prevention, which entails feeding a balanced ration, providing an ample supply of low mineralized water and an adequate level of vitamin A is the best approach.

To increase water consumption in finishing lambs, Mr. Sheer suggests adding salt at the rate of one to 3 per cent to the concentrate rations. He recommends feeding the higher level during the winter when water consumption is usually low.

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Urinary Calculi in Sheep (cont'd)

If an outbreak of urinary calculi occurs in feedlot lambs, 0.5 per cent ammonia chloride (1/4 oz/head/day) or 0.9 per cent ammonia sulphate should be added to the ration.

In a severe outbreak of urinary calculi, Mr. Sheer recommends marketing all affected lambs that are carrying an acceptable finish. He also points out that if rams are operated on to remove the calculi, they will become non-breeders.

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January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FISH AND WILDLIFE LECTURE SERIES

Did you attend the illustrated lecture on managing Alberta's fish and wildlife at the Provincial Museum of Alberta in Edmonton on January 19?

It was the first of nine illustrated lectures being offered by the fish and wildlife division of Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife to give the general public an insight into the management and conservation of fish and wildlife in this province. The lectures are arranged so that there will be plenty of opportunity for comments and questions.

They will be held at 7:30 every Thursday evening, except for the eighth lecture which will be held at 7:30 on Monday evening. The lectures are all free, and coffee will be served.

Following is a list of dates, topics and the names and titles of the people giving the lectures.

Jan. 26	Fish and Wildlife Resource Research (The Need to Know)	W. Wishart, section head of wildlife research and B. Bidgood, section head of fish research
Feb. 2	Fish and Wildlife Inventory as a Management Tool	G. Kemp, section head of wildlife management and E. Stenton, section head of fish management
Feb. 9	Fish and Wildlife Culture Programs (Creating and Maintaining Recreational Opportunities for Albertans)	T. McFadden, section head of fish culture and J. Pelchat, section head of wildlife culture
Feb. 16	Fish and Wildlife Habitat (Creating and Maintaining Places for Wildlife to Live)	B. Markham, section head of wildlife habitat and R. Mackowecki, aquatic habitat development biologist
Feb. 23	Problem Fish and Wildlife (Dealing with the Special Cases)	J. Gunson, problem wildlife biologist and K. Zelt, regional waterfowl biologist and H. Weaver, provincial waterfowl biologist
Mar. 2	Educating the Resource Users (Special Programs in Fish and Wildlife)	R. Hasay, chief hunter training officer and D. Unger, problem wildlife coordinator
Mar. 6	Fish and Wildlife Management (A Day in the Life of a Biologist)	M. Barrett, regional wildlife biologist and G. Thompson, regional fisheries biologist
Mar. 16	Legislation and Law Enforcement in Fish and Wildlife Management	E. Psikla, director of field services and enforcement

Further information can be obtained from the Extension Services Branch, Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, 10363 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T4J 1L8, (Telephone 427-6757).

January 23, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEANING AN ELECTRIC BLANKET

Electric blankets cannot be dry cleaned because the dry cleaning solution will damage the wire insulation.

Here is how Charlene Leeson, Alberta Agriculture district home economist at Red Deer, suggests cleaning an electric blanket. First she recommends measuring the blanket so that you can resize it after you have cleaned it. Then shake it gently to remove any fluff and cover the area where the electric cord is attached to the blanket with several layers of cloth to prevent the connection from being damaged.

Add detergent to lukewarm water in the washing machine and let the detergent dissolve before putting the blanket in. Soak the blanket for about 15 minutes and then run the machine for one minute. Then rinse the blanket by letting it soak for five minutes in clean water, and spin it slightly to remove excess moisture.

Check the instructions on the blanket to see how the manufacturer recommends that it should be dried. If you can use an automatic dryer, set the dryer at a high temperature and preheat six towels Fold the heated towels around the blanket to protect it and to hasten drying and put the blanket in the dryer (set at a high heat) for 15 minutes. Remove the blanket and stretch it to its original size and hang it up without clothes-pins and out of the sunlight to finish drying.

If the manufacturer does not recommend using a dryer, stretch the blanket to its original size and hang it up to dry.

You can restore the nap on your blanket by brushing it with a soft brush and you can use a warm iron to flatten out the binding.

"Always make absoutely sure that your electrict blanket is completely dry before you plug it into an electric outlet," says Ms. Lesson.

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AGRI-NEWS

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FORAGE FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Alberta's agriculture minister, Marvin Moore, has announced minor changes to the federal-provincial Feed Freight Assistance Program.

These changes will provide municipalities or counties containing irrigated areas with the opportunity to declare themselves surplus areas so that individuals transporting hay from these areas will be able to apply for feed freight assistance provided they are within the designated feed shortage area.

Municipal governments with large irrigation areas will be given an opportunity to review their forage requirements and surplus supplies and to assess their role in the program. If a local government requests declaration as a 'surplus' area, residents of its jurisdiction will not be entitled to obtain assistance for feed movement. All other provisions of the previously announced program will remain in effect.

Basically, the freight assistance program provides for assistance up to $15 per ton to a maximum of $2,000 per farmer for transporting forage for livestock feed. Actual disbursement for the fund will be on the following basis:

A. no assistance for the first 50 miles,

B. 10¢ per ton-mile for the next 100 miles that fodder (hay, silage or straw) is hauled,

C. 8¢ per ton-mile for distances of more than 150 miles, with the same $15 per ton maximum,

D. 5¢ per ton mile to the $15 maximum in excess of 50 miles for processed fodder (pellets or cubes).

Application forms for assistance under the program are now being printed and will be available from the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation offices by the end of January

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Alberta

The Forage Freight Assistance Program (cont'd)

Farmers applying for assistance are reminded to check with the municipal authorities or their district agriculturist to determine whether or not their particular municipality has requested inclusion in the program.

Mr. Moore commented that the revisions in the program should substantially assist individuals wishing to sell surplus forage from irrigation production as well as those who have previously bought or are planning to buy and transport such forage.

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January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED CLEANING PLANT PROGRAM

John Batiuk, M.L.A., Vegreville, has announced on behalf of Marvin E. Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture, changes in the seed cleaning plant program regarding the replacement of plants. The revised program will provide financial support for the rebuilding of seed cleaning plants when a need is demonstrated.

Since the first co-operative seed cleaning plant was built in 1948, Alberta Agriculture has supported the concept of better seed for Alberta farmers by sharing one-third of the capital cost of new plant construction. In 1975 an upgrading program was introduced to assist those plants wishing to update or improve their facilities to meet the needs of the farmers in their area.

Alberta Agriculture has assisted in the building of 77 seed cleaning plants since 1948, and in the year 1976-77, these plants processed over 26 million bushels of improved quality grain.

The replacement program will enable those seed cleaning plants that are beyond the upgrading stage to rebuild a suitable facility. This will be limited to a one-third share of the difference in cost between the new plant and a replacement plant to a maximum of $100,000. Replacement plants will be limited to two per year, and the size will be based on past and potential volume with consideration being given to existing plants in the surrounding area.

Plants must carry adequate fire insurance to replace their present facility. No assistance will be given to rebuild plants lost to fire unless a larger plant than the original is required. The cost of the extra plant capacity will be shared.

The seed cleaning plant must have sufficient volume and financial stability to warrant replacement. Local government approval and financial support is required before Alberta Agriculture will consider a replacement grant application. Further information and program guidelines will be sent to all the co-op, seed cleaning plants and district agriculturists.

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PROCESSING PLANT RECEIVES GRANT

A southern Alberta fresh potato processing plant is to receive a $46,595 grant under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement to modernize and expand its facilities. The assistance is based on 16.9 per cent of the total eligible capital costs, which are estimated at $275,713.

The plant, Diamond S Produce Ltd. of Taber will use the grant to acquire buildings and equipment to increase its storage facilities so that they will hold about 4,500 tons of potatoes and to greatly expand its fresh potato packaging line.

At the present time the plant markets about 15,000 tons of potatoes a year, 6,000 tons of which go to the fresh market. It also grades potatoes for the processing trade and grades and processes potatoes and other vegetables (corn, cabbage and onions) for the fresh market.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is cost-shared equally by Alberta Agriculture and the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion. It provides assistance to food processing plants which establish or expand operations in rural Alberta.

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Alberta

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDLOT BLOAT

by Art Tilma
Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist
at Thorhid

Feedlot bloat can be greatly reduced by processing grain correctly.

Although high concentrated diets have often been blamed for causing bloat in feedlot cattle, Drs. Hironaka, Cheng and Bailey of the federal research station at Lethbridge disagree with this opinion. They report that all concentrate diets have been fed free-choice to cattle for eight to 10 months at the station and in some commercial feedlots with very rare occurances of bloat. This very low incidence of bloat is attributed to tempering the grain with water to maintain coarse particle-size rather than to the composition of the feed.

Grains must be processed to improve digestibility. Whole barley, for example, is 16 per cent less digestible than rolled barley. Grains are processed by grinding, rolling or hammering. Be careful not to overprocess the grain. Kernels need only to be cracked to expose them to rumen microorganisms. Try to maintain a coarse particle size. A coarsely cracked feed containing some whole kernels is better than a fully cracked feed containing a high proportion of fine particles. Since cattle eat more coarse feed than fine feed, coarse feed produces higher weight gains and feed efficiencies than fine feed. Feeds containing more than 25 per cent fine particles cause digestive disturbances and other metabolic disorders, including a tendency to bloat.

Tempering To temper grain, add water as the grain is being augered. The amount of water added will depend on the moisture content of the grain. Very dry grain takes about 8 per cent water, which is as much as it can hold as it passes through the auger. Under warm conditions, allow the moistened grain to stand for a few hours before processing. Under cold conditions, add the water as the grain is being augered from the storage bin and allow it to stand overnight. Since water freezes quickly in very cold weather, tempering under these conditions will not be practical.

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Feedlot Bloat (cont'd)

Processing untempered grain If tempering is impractical, operate the hammers and grinders at slower than normal speed to help keep the kernels from shattering into fine particles. Steam rolling also helps keep coarse particle size, but do not roll the feed too thin. Set the rollers so that the grain is just cracked. Rolling or hammering grain into fine particles decreases the output of the mill, adds to the cost of processing and increases the incidence of bloat and other physiological disorders.

If the processed feed contains too many fine particles, add 2 to 3 per cent fat or molasses to it to keep the particles from separating from the coarse particles. The chance of cattle eating a high percentage of fine particles at any one time is lowered if the feed is homogeneous. If cattle must eat feed containing too many fine particles, digestive upsets can be reduced by adding 4 per cent salt to the feed. But such a high level of salt should only be used as a short-term measure. Over long periods, rumen microorganisms adapt to the high concentration and the salt becomes an ineffective remedy. When manure from cattle fed a high salt diet is used as fertilizer, the soil may become too saline for many crops. The performance of cattle on a high salt diet suffers because too much salt reduces feed intake.

A federal publication entitled "Feedlot Finishing of Cattle" gives detailed information on tempering grain and processing untempered grain. It can be obtained from most district agriculturist offices.

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECORD INSURANCE PAYMENTS FOR CROP LOSSES

Record payments for crop losses were made to Alberta farmers in 1977 under the "all-risk" crop insurance program.

Officials of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation report a payout of nearly $39 million to about 9,000 farmers whose crops were seriously damaged by unfavorable weather. The previous high payout was made in 1975 when indemnities totalled $17 million

Drought in southern and east-central areas of the province was the main factor contributing to heavy crop losses. Early spring frosts, hail damage, excessive moisture at seeding time and poor harvesting weather throughout September and early October contributed to the heavy toll.

The Corporation reports that nearly $33 million was paid out under the basic "all-risk" program. Another $5 million was paid for hail losses under the hail endorsement clause of crop insurance policies. Just over $1,000,000 was paid last spring to farmers who were unable to seed summerfallowed acreage because of excessive moisture. Most of these unseeded summerfallow payments were made to farmers in the Peace River region and in the area north and west of Edmonton.

Only about 70 policyholders reported "snowed-under" losses. These claims resulted from the inability of farmers to harvest crops during the fall because of heavy snowfalls. Final settlement of these claims will be completed in the spring.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation's total overall indemnities were slightly in excess of premium income in 1977, with the loss-to-premium ratio being about 101 per cent.

More than 20,000 farmers carried $277 million of coverage on their crops last year. This coverage represented about 40 per cent of Alberta's total grain acreage.

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January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTIMATING HAY AND STRAW IN THE STACK

Do you know how much hay and straw you have on hand on a day to day basis?

Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler, Andy Birch, thinks it is a good idea to have this information. "For one thing," he says, "it will give you some idea of whether your present supplies will last you through the winter." If you anticipate a shortage, you can buy hay or straw now in case it becomes scarce or more expensive in the spring. If, on the other hand, you find that you have a surplus, you may wish to sell some of the surplus. Mr. Birch points out, however, that it is a good idea to have more feed on hand than you require as insurance against a long winter, a late spring or a drought next summer.

A current hay and straw inventory will also indicate your rate of feed consumption (although feed fed to cattle can be weighed or estimated each day) and give you a good idea of your feed costs. It will also help you decide whether you should modify or change your feeding program by supplementing or substituting other feeds.

Although weighing is the only accurate method of determing how much loose hay or straw there is in a stack, in many cases this method is not practical, possible or even necessary. "A good estimate," says Mr. Birch, "can be just as useful."

Before you can determine the volume of a stack of feed you must know the overthrow distance, the stack's average width at ground level and its average length at ground level.

There are three main types of stacks to consider when calculating the volume of a rectangular stack. There is the high round topped (at least 14 feet high), low round topped (under 14 feet) and the square flat topped stack.

Assuming that the symbol "D "refers to the overthrow distance, that "W" represents the width of the stack and "L" the length, the volume can be found by doing the following

- (cont'd) -

Estimating Hay And Straw In The Stack (cont'd)

calculation:

1. High round topped stack:
   Volume (in cubic feet) = $(D \times 0.52 - W \times 0.46) \times W \times L$
2. Low round topped stack:
   Volume = $(D \times 0.52 - W \times 0.44) \times W \times L$
3. Square flat topped stack:
   Volume = $(D \times 0.56 - W \times 0.55) \times W \times L$

The volume of round stacks is estimated by performing the following calculations

$$\text{Volume} = (.04 \times D - .012 \times C) \times C^2$$

where " D" refers to overthrow distance and "C" to the circumference or the distance around the stack.

Once the volume has been determined, it is necessary to divide this figure by the cubic feet of space occupied per ton by the hay or straw. This will give you an estimate of the number of tons in the stack.

It is important to remember that different kinds of hay and hay stored in different forms and for varying lengths of time will have different space requirements. For instance, loose alfalfa hay will occupy about 484 cubic feet per ton if stored for 30 to 90 days. Over 90 days it will occupy approximately 470 cubic feet of space per ton. Loose timothy, brome and other types of non-legumes use 640 cubic feet of space per ton if stacked from 30 to 90 days and about 625 cubic feet per ton if stacked for over 90 days. Loose straw occupies 670 to 1,000 cubic feet per ton. If the hay or straw is baled or chopped, its space requirements per ton will be even less, and a different figure will have to be used to determine the stack weight.

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FORAGE ASSOCIATION FORMED

Alberta now has three forage associations. The latest one, Lakeland Forage Association, is in northeastern Alberta. The other two are the Foothills Forage Association and the Pembina Forage Association which are in southwestern and northwestern Alberta respectively.

One of the main aims of the Lakeland Forage Association is to define and identify forage production and utilization problems that are specific to northeastern Alberta. It is made up of members from the St. Paul, Smoky Lake, Bonnyville and Lac La Biche areas. Funding is being done jointly by Alberta Agriculture and local agricultural service boards. The Alberta Research Council is administering the funds.

The new forage association plans to hold a seminar each year. This year's seminar will be held at Mallaig on March 1. It will cover such topics as agronomic practices, the management of grasses for maximum seed production, legume seed production, and up-to-date findings on non-bloat legumes. Dr. R. Knowles, Dr. P. Pankiw and Dr. B. Gopien will be the guest speakers.

Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche, is the project supervisor for the new association. Bert Arthur has been hired as full-time forage crop specialist. His duties will include applied research on crops, with special emphasis on forage crops, and setting out demonstration plots for the evaluation of different management techniques, fertility, varieties etc., and for collecting and disseminating yield data.

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Alberta

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN SHEEP BUYERS IN ALBERTA

Mexican sheep producers are in Alberta to buy some commercial ewes, preferably of the Hampshire and Suffolk breeds.

This buying mission in the result of a mission in December when the Mexicans purchased 247 purebred sheep from Alberta flocks and from one Saskatchewan flock. The Mexicans were so pleased with these animals that they decided to come back for more.

According to Don Scheer, Alberta Agriculture's sheep specialist, the Mexicans were very impressed with the overall quality of the sheep flocks they visited. "They were especially impressed with the growth and size of our animals", he says.

The shipment was made up of sheep from some of Western Canada's best flocks and included Suffolks, Hampshires and North Country Cheviots. It consisted of 231 ewes and 16 rams.

Last December's sheep shipment represented one of the largest to Mexico from Canada in recent years, and came about as a result of promotion activities initiated by the Alberta Sheep Breeders Association and action on the part of the Alberta-Canada All Breeds Association.

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January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOULEVARD TREE PRUNING COURSE

Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch will be holding a boulevard tree pruning course at Ponoka on April 4 and 5.

This special course has been organized in response to the increasing demand for information and training in the proper pruning of boulevard trees and to help Albertans protect their American elms against the deadly Dutch elm disease, which is causing serious losses in Manitoba. "Proper pruning", says Herman Oosterhuis" will go a long way towards safeguarding our elms, which are our most desirable boulevard trees". Mr. Oosterhuis is in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting programs.

Intended for people whose jobs involve the maintenance of trees in institutional grounds and for commercial pruners of large shade trees in cities, towns, and villages, the course covers the pruning techniques recommended for properly shaping large trees and prescribed safety measures. According to Mr. Oosterhuis, many large shade trees, especially in the smaller urban centres, are ruined by the pruning techniques presently being used People often simply cut off the tops of their trees when the trees reach a certain height instead of controlling their size by shaping them as they grow.

The boulevard tree pruning course will also include information on the correct spacing of boulevard trees, choice of species, where and when to plant them and good maintenance procedures.

The deadline for registering for the course, which can accommodate 30 people, is April 1. Applicants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The cost of the course is only $10.

Application forms can be obtained from the Horticultural Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUTTING HOUSE HEATING BILLS

Have you thought about cutting your fuel bills by insulating your house? If your house was built in 1941 or before you can get a grant from the federal government to cover two-thirds of the cost of the materials you need up to a maximum of $350.

Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Stettler, Betty Birch, gives the following example to illustrate how insulating a house can save fuel consumption. The owner in this case decided to insulate his house two years ago. It is a wood-frame bungalow with aluminum siding and consists of approximately 1,100 square feet. When it was built in the mid-1960's it had two inches of mineral wool batt insulation in its walls and attic and the windows were double glazed.

Before the house was insulated, the amount of fuel needed to heat it was estimated at 1,120 gallons of oil, 153,000 cubic feet of natural gas or 32,800 kilowatts of electricity per year.

After the owner had put six inches of batt insulation in the celing and rigid polystyrene insulation in the outside walls for a cost of $1,100, his fuel consumption dropped to an estimated 630 gallons of oil, 86,000 cubic feet of natural gas or 18,500 kilowatts of electricity per year. In other words he cut his annual fuel consumption by 44 per cent.

If you are thinking of doing some insulating, weather stripping etc., Alberta Agriculture has an excellent publication that will help you. Called "Keeping the Heat In", it tells you how to evaluate the present condition of your house and how to determine what needs to be done. It also tells you how to go about doing whatever needs to be done.

"Keeping the Heat In" can be obtained from district home economists and the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8

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January 30, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED CONTROL ARTICLE WANTED

Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch is inviting anybody connected with agriculture to submit an article on "The Cost of Weeds in Crop Production".

Arnold Stearman of the weed control branch says that the winning article will be published and that its author will be given appropriate recognition.

Submissions should not be more than 500 words long, and they must be received by the weed control branch not later than May 1, 1978.

Despite the fact that scientists the world over have proved that weeds restrict the expansion of crop production more than anything else, there is a lack of concrete crop loss data and studies to determine the production costs that can be attributed to weeds.

Crop acreages in the underdeveloped countries are restricted to the size of area that a farmer can weed during the growing season, and upwards of 90 per cent of his energy is involved in weed control. Do we in Alberta also expend the majority of our energy devoted to crop production in controlling weeds?

Articles on "The Cost of Weeds in Crop Production" should be sent to Arnold Stearman, Weed Control Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8

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AL.1.521

AGRI-NEWS

NATIONAL [illegible]

February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT GIVES GRANT TO NORMA JEAN GRAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Marvin E. Moore, minister of Alberta agriculture, has announced a grant of $1,000 to the "Norma Jean Gray Scholarship" fund.

Money from the fund will be used to finance a non-academic award granted to an Alberta 4-H member on the basis of his or her reliability, integrity, industry, communicative skills and sense of public responsibility. The award will be tenable at any post-secondary educational institution.

Mrs. Gray (nee Norma Jean Hogg) was born and raised in Olds, Alberta. Immediately after graduating from the University of Alberta in 1944, she joined Alberta Agriculture as a district home economist, a position she held until 1973 when she was named regional home economist for the Lethbridge region. She remained in this position until her untimely death in October, 1977. In 1973, Mrs. Gray was named Citizen of the Year in Brooks in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community. In October, 1977, Alberta Agriculture's most prestigious award was presented posthumously - that of being named to the Hall of Fame.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A CATTLE SUPPLEMENT OF CEMENT DUST

Why do steers put on weight after eating cement dust? That is what the scientists are trying to find out.

A recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report states that feedlot steers fed cement dust obtained from cement kilns had a 28 per cent faster rate of gain than those fed a diet without cement dust, and that the steers on the dust produced higher grade beef than those on a regular diet.

A report issued in late 1977 by the USDA's research centre at Beltsville, Maryland, also suggests that the addition of cement dust improves rates of gain and overall efficiency in feedlot steers.

The possibility of cement dust improving the gains of feedlot cattle first came to light when some farmers in Georgia reported improved feedlot gains after they had fed the dust to their cattle. When Drs. W. E. Wheeler and R. R. Oltjen, both animal scientists at the Ruminant Nutrition Laboratory at Beltsville, conducted a 112-day preliminary trial on 14 feedlot steers, they too recorded significant improvements in both rate of gain and feed to gain ratio.

In an attempt to find out why steers put on weight after eating cement dust, and whether the dust adversely affects the digestion of the animals when fed over a prolonged period of time, the Beltsville scientists are conducting more experiments on larger groups of steers and lambs. In addition to measuring rate of gain and feed conversion, they are studying the animals' internal organs to determine whether there are likely to be digestive problems.

Results from this second stage of testing could be available by mid-1978. If the experiments continue to show promise, it will then be necessary to test the feeding of cement dust on a large scale before it can be recommended as a general practice.

One of the problems with this type of feed is that the chemical composition of the dust, especially in the case of some trace elements, can vary a great deal because it depends upon

- (cont'd) -

A Cattle Supplement of Cement Dust (cont'd)

the source of the raw material used for the cement. In fact, it could be dangerous to add this material to cattle rations unless the feeder was sure that it contained no toxic levels of trace elements.

Another problem is that too little is known about how the dust works and precisely what its effects are. Dr. Wheeler stated that "We are cautioning farmers not to use cement kiln dust in livestock diets until more research has been conducted."

In the meantime, research workers in Alberta and Alberta Agriculture's nutritionists are following the studies carefully. If the cement dust should prove to be of real value, farmers will be informed immediately.

Further information on this subject can be obtained from Ross Gould, Livestock Supervisor for Beef Cattle, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 and from the nutritionists at the Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, O. S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDLE RAPESEED

Breeder seed of the rapeseed variety Candle is available from the Alberta Seed Distribution Committee to select seed growers.

This is a change from last year when it could only be obtained by those eligible to grow it under contract from a rapeseed crushing plant. At that time, the crushing plant forwarded the application to the stock seed distribution committee for allocation.

Foundation and certified seed is available only under contract with a crushing plant as was the case last year.

Licensed last year, Candle is the only double zero Polish rapeseed variety available in Canada. The other double zero varieties, Tower and Regent, are both Argentine types. Double zero means that the variety has a low erucic acid and a low glucosinolate content. According to Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops with Alberta Agriculture, the crushing plants are planning to crush only double-zero rapeseed this year. This means that Torch, Span and Midas will have to be sold on the export market.

The protein content of Candle is about one per cent higher than that of Torch, the fibre content is about 3 per cent lower than that of Torch and the oil content is about one per cent higher than that of Torch.

In federal tests, carried out over a four year period in Western Canada, Candle rapeseed yields in Alberta were lower than those of Torch. However, according to Mr. Thomas, the majority of Alberta farmers who grew Candle under contract last year reported that it yielded as well as, if not better than, Torch.

Preliminary research conducted under the Rapeseed Utilization Assistance Program indicates that Candle meal is equal to Tower meal in feeding trials. Although general recommendations from the researchers show that livestock and poultry rations can be supplemented by as much as 10 per cent with Candle meal, the feed industry is still using only 5 per cent. The

- (cont'd) -

Candle Rapeseed (cont'd)

research findings also show that the only detrimental affect when Candle meal is used at the rate of 15 per cent in livestock and poultry rations (except laying hen rations) is a slightly lower feed efficiency.

Mr. Thomas points out that anyone who grew Candle rapeseed under contract with a crushing plant last year is under a legal obligation to deliver his full production to that plant. He warns that a rapeseed grower who sells Candle seed to anyone else is breaking his contract and could find himself in conflict with the law.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAPANESE DAIRY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS WORTH STUDYING

Alberta can learn a great deal from Japanese dairy management systems, according to Jim Davin who is one of six Albertans spending a year in Japan under the Alberta-Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Program, which provides for 10 young Alberta dairy farmers to go to Japan and for 10 young Japanese dairy farmers to come to Alberta each year.

Mr. Davin, who is a Green Certificate student in the Toefield area, has spent the last six months on a 600-acre dairy farm on the island Hokkaido in northern Japan. The dairy farms on this island supply the rest of Japan with most of its milk and dairy products.

Called Machimura, after its owner, the farm is the result of 60 years of intensive management. Its dairy herd consists of 170 head of high quality registered Holsteins which are the offspring of the famous Carnation Farms herd of Washington, U.S.A.

"The average milk production of the 85 cows that are milking at the present time", says Mr. Davin, "is almost 18,000 pounds a year." He reports that the herd's butterfat level has been maintained at 4.21 per cent for many years, and that four of the cows have produced more than 1,000 pounds of butterfat for three consecutive years.

The herd is confined in three barns. One barn contains the old, sick and calving cows. The second barn contains two and three-year old cows and the third barn contains the heavy producing mature cows. Each barn has its own feeding and "caring" system.

In the heavy producing mature cow barn, where Mr. Davin works, the feed is mixed and portioned out according to each animal's requirements. The ration,which is made up of copra, oats, rapeseed meal, rolled beans and barley combined with beet pulp, is served as a hot mash. (The cows love it, according to Mr. Davin.) The mash is followed by good quality corn silage and very fine alfalfa hay or an orchard grass-timothy hay. The cows receive this feed three times a day plus a dry concentrate-vitamin-mineral feed each afternoon.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Japanese Dairy Management Systems Worth Studying (cont'd)

The amount of care the cows get is one thing that astonished Mr. Davin. He says that each animal is kept in a roomy stall, and that each barn has a number of 12 x 12-foot box stalls for the prize cattle. All the stalls have wooden slot floors, rubber mats and ample bedding in the milking area.

There are 32 people employed on the farm, 20 of whom are very competent students who receive very low wages.

Two men work an average of about 14 hours a day in each barn. They wash and brush all the cows twice a day and clean the barn three times a day. Although the senior manager of the farm is in charge of the herd's health, several veterinarians visit the barns almost every day. Mr. Davin says that 20 veterinarians came to the farm for the autopsy of a cow that died while he was on the farm.

Milking on the Machimura farm begins at exactly 5 a.m. Each cow is hand-stripped (a common practice in Japan) after she has been milked, and the milk weight is recorded and initialed. The cans are collected with a hand cart and taken to the milk factory, which is part of the dairy enterprise. Here the milk is separated and allocated to the pasteurizing or butter-making section.

Mr. Davin says "I have never tasted better milk than that produced on the Machimura farm. This is because of its 4.21 per cent butterfat content. The butter is as good as any I have ever had, and the ice cream, made for the farm's consumption, is superb. This is mainly because it is made from high quality cream, and possibly because it is cooled with snow. I have also had a yoghurt-type product which was delicious, and which I have never seen on the Canadian market. In general Japanese dairy products are of very high quality, but they are outrageously priced in relation to the average income in that country".

Mr. Davin reports that the Japanese government backs farms up to 75 per cent for capital purchases. He also says that the Japanese borrow libe ally from the United States and

- (cont'd) -

Japanese Dairy Management Systems Worth Studying (cont'd)

Canada and will soon surpass both countries in dairy management as they have in most other technology. He thinks that the Japanese are using the Alberta-Hokkaido Dairy Exchange Program more efficiently than is the case in Alberta. Since the program was initiated in 1974, they have sent 10 dairy exchange students each years to learn all they can about Western dairy technology.

Mr. Davin hopes to spend some time on a New Zealand dairy farm after completing his year in Japan and before returning to Canada.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH MOISTURE BARLEY SEMINAR AT RED DEER

A seminar on high moisture barley is scheduled to take place at the Lacombe Memorial Centre in Lacombe on February 16. It has been organized by Alberta Agriculture personnel in response to the considerable interest that has been expressed for this topic by local livestockmen.

According to Wally Klatt, regional plant industry supervisor at Red Deer, farmers in the Red Deer/Lacombe area who are feeding high moisture barley are quite "high" on this method of harvesting and have accumulated some good information on the subject. They store the barley without any treatment in pits and in Harvestore and concrete silos and are feeding it to beef and dairy cattle and to hogs.

Mr. Klatt reports that Bob Nelson, supervisor of cereal crops with Alberta Agriculture, and Dr. Jim Krall of Montana State University in the U.S.A. will be speaking at the seminar. Mr. Nelson has done some research on high moisture barley and Dr. Krall has done a considerable amount of research on this topic. The latter will be discussing the agronomic and nutritional aspects of high moisture barley. There will also be a panel of three farmers who will relate their experiences with this feed and outline their storage and handling systems. Alberta Agriculture personnel will comment on the economic implications of high moisture barley and on its handling.

According to Mr. Klatt, a tour has been arranged for the next day (February 17) for anyone interested in seeing the storage and handling systems that are being used by local farmers and the product itself.

Registration for the seminar starts at 9 a.m. and the seminar begins at 10 a.m. The cost is only $5 (including lunch) and everybody is welcome.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN ORDERING FROM GARDEN CATALOGUES

By now many of you will have received your garden catalogues and will be wondering what flowers and vegetables to choose for this year's garden.

In case you are wondering what some of the horticultural terms mean, here are some definitions:

Annuals are plants that are started from seed, either indoors or outdoors,and that complete their lifespan in one season. Since annuals bloom continually, they provide a colorful display throughout the summer. Their short lifespan makes them useful for filling in portions of the landscape while more permanent plantings are still immature.

Biennials are plants that take two years to complete their lifespan. They usually produce only foliage during their first year. Often they can be made to act like annuals if the seeds are started early in the greenhouse.

Perennials have varying lifespans, but most can be expected to remain in the garden for at least three years. Because perennials, unlike annuals, have a limited period of bloom, a perennial flowerbed or border must include varieties that bloom at different times. Only in this way can continual color throughout the growing season be ensured.

Other terms frequently referred to in seed catalogues are hardy, half-hardy and tender. Hardy plants can withstand extremes of cold and drought to varying degrees during the winter and produce flowers the following summer. Half-hardy plants are not able to withstand low temperatures and are often injured by late spring and early fall frosts. Hence, they have to be protected in the spring and fall. Tender plants are very susceptible to low temperature damage. In fact, some can even be badly damaged by temperatures that are still above freezing. They will be killed by a very short period of slightly below freezing temperatures.

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What To Consider When Ordering From Garden Catalogues (cont'd)

Chris Campbell, horticultural specialist with Alberta Agriculture, advises anyone who chooses flower or vegetable varieties from seed catalogues to check to see whether they are in the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" before submitting an order. Among many other things the guide lists flower, vegetable, fruit, shrub and tree varieties that will do well in specific areas of the province. It gives the height, spread and colors of the ornamentals and tells which of the recommended vegetable varieties are suitable for freezing.

Ms. Campbell also recommends planning a vegetable or flower garden on paper before ordering plants and seeds. She says the plan should be well thought out and drawn to scale on a piece of graph paper. Such things as the mature height and spread of the plants and their flowering dates (or maturing dates in the case of vegetables) should be taken into consideration when placing the various plants on the plan.

Copies of the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" can be obtained from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR HOME INSULATION

Have you been approached by the respresentative of a firm which wants to insulate your house? Did this representative indicate that the federal government's home insulation grant would cover the job?

The Better Business Bureau of Edmonton and Northern Alberta has received enquiries from a number of people who have been approached in this way. Their advice is to do nothing until you have studied the information kit that explains how the program works.

Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Stettler, Betty Birch, says the kit explains the grant and spells out the criteria that must be met. For example, at the present time the grant applies only to houses built in 1941 or before (newer houses will become eligible over the next few years), and it covers only two-thirds of the insulating material up to a maximum of $350. It does not cover the cost of the labor, and the insulating material used must have been approved by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

In addition to explaining the eligibility criteria of the home insulation grant program, the information kit lists the insulation materials that have been approved by CMHC. It also contains a booklet, which describes how to insulate your home, and an application form.

"Be sure to keep your insulation material invoices", advises Betty Birch, "because you must submit them with your application form when you apply for a grant. These invoices must show the type of insulation used and its CMHC acceptance number.

The address to write to for the information kit is:

The Canadian Home Insulation Programme
Box 700
St. Laurent, Quebec
H4L 5A8

or you can telephone collect to 514-341-1511.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ENGINEERS DESIGN SOLAR-HEATED HOUSE

United States Department of Agriculture engineers have designed a solar-heated house that is claimed to be able to supply up to 75 per cent of its own heat almost anywhere in the United States, according to a press release received by Alberta Agriculture.

The house has 1,100 square feet of living space, and includes three bedrooms, a bathroom, a living-dining room combination, a kitchen, a laundry room and a garage.

The solar heat collector is fiberglass reinforced with panelling. It can be built on the front or the back of the roof of the house, but must face south for maximum sun exposure. Heat is collected in the attic, which is painted black.

The heat is transferred to the house for heating through a system of ducts or is diverted to a layer of crushed rock underneath the house where it is stored for use at night or on cloudy days. A solar water heater can be added to the system.

Working drawings of the house are available to Americans from extension agricultural engineers of the Co-operative Extension Service at land grant universities for a nominal fee.

Canadians who would like more information about the Solar House (Plan No. 7220) may be able to get it by writing to the Agriculture Engineer, Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, U.S.A.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO DAIRY FARM FIELDMEN APPOINTED

Ed Bristow, head of Alberta Agriculture's dairy farm inspection branch, has appointed two new dairy farm fieldmen. They are John Jansen and Ron Lehman.

John Jansen

Mr. Jensen comes from a mixed farm in the Barrhead area where his family have shipped cream from a small registered Jersey herd for many years. It was this herd, plus his experience as a member of a 4-H dairy club for six years, that prompted Mr. Jensen's interest in the dairy industry.

Since graduating from the Lethbridge Community College in 1974, he has worked at various jobs to gain experience. He jointed Alberta Agriculture in early 1977 as a diary herd improvement technician and transferred to the dairy farm inspection branch last November.

Ron Lehman

A native of Ontario, Mr. Lehman graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph with an associate diploma in agriculture in 1976. Following graduation he reutrned to the family farm where he was responsible for the dairy herd until he came to Western Canada. Last fall he began work as assistant herdsman at the University of Alberta's bull test station at Ellerslie. In November he joined Alberta Agriculture's dairy division.

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February 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL PLANT INDUSTRY SUPERVISOR APPOINTED AT RED DEER

J. D. Jantzie, head of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch, has announced the appointment of W. O. Klatt to the position of regional plant industry supervisor at Red Deer.

Mr. Klatt's duties will include co-ordinating and implementing such plant industry programs as pest control, weed control and seed cleaning. He will also be responsible for regional and district forage and field crop demonstrations.

Mr. Klatt comes from a farm in the Forestburg area. After graduating from the University of Alberta in 1950, he spent two years as field crops supervisor at the Canada research station at Fort Vermilion. He then joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and became chief supply officer.

Mr. Klatt joined Alberta Agriculture in 1969 and became senior district agriculturist at Morinville. He also assisted Alberta Agriculture's northwest regional staff to plan extension programs. He retained this position until his present appointment.

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AL.1.591

AGRI-NEWS

February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1978 CATTLE OUTLOOK

The federal forecast for the first half of 1978 is for higher cattle prices.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Maurice Kraut, reports that A1 and A2 steers basis Toronto are forecast to average $46 to $48 per hundredweight in the first half of this year, representing an increase of approximately 10 per cent compared with the first half of 1977. He says 600 to 700-pound feeder steers at Edmonton are expected to average in the mid $40 per hundredweight level in the first half of this year, which would be similar to 1977 price levels for the same period.

On the basis of the federal forecast, the price of A1 and A2 steers basis Calgary should be $41 to $43 per hundredweight during the first six months of 1978. "Our analysis", explains Mr. Kraut, "tends to indicate that first quarter prices for A1 and A2 steers basis Calgary will average in the $41 to $43 per hundredweight price range, and that prices in the second quarter are likely to be in the mid $40 per hundredweight range. With the increased marketings that are expected, the third quarter price trend could be downwards, and end up in the low $40 to the high $30 per hundredweight range."

Alberta feeder cattle prices will follow the slaughter steer price trend. In view of the lower feed grain prices, it is anticipated that 400 to 600-pound feeder steers will be in the mid to high $40 price range for most of 1978, but that the heavier feeders will continue to be priced under the slaughter steer price. "In the final analysis, however, these prices will depend upon the availability of heavier feeder supplies, the price of feed grain and producer anticipation of future market conditions," Mr. Kraut says.

Since Canadian cattle marketing conditions are continually being influenced by U.S. market conditions, an awareness of the anticipated beef supply in the U.S. is important. Current indications are that U.S. beef production for the first half of 1978 may decline by only one per cent compared with 1977 levels. However, it appears likely that there will be a further decline of

- (cont'd)

5 per cent in beef production in the second half of this year. Mr. Kraut points out that this situation may not be as optimistic as it appears because, if the anticipated increase in pork and poultry production materializes, the total meat supply in 1978 will be at least equal to that of 1977.

The United States Department of Agriculture price expectations for choice slaughter steers at Omaha are for marginal gains of about $1 to $2 per hundredweight compared with 1977 prices. The forecast for the first, second, third and fourth quarters are: $40 to $42 per hundredweight; $42 to $44 per hundredweight; $41 to $43 per hundredweight; and $42 to $44 per hundredweight respectively.

Mr. Kraut reports that Canada and the United States have announced a 1.5 per cent increase in the volume of beef and veal that will be allowed into North America this year. "The continuation of North American beef import quotas can only signify that there are very large beef supplies still available from the Oceanic countries, and that cattle industry profits are either very low or non-existant." he says.

He also points out that the rapid price increase for slaughter cattle that occurred in the fourth quarter of 1977 should be viewed with caution. Since last year's beef supply was virtually unchanged from 1976 even though cattle slaughter was up, it was not a decreased supply relative to consumer demand that changed cattle prices so dramatically. The primary cause of the change was the devaluation of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar. From the fourth quarter of 1976 to the fourth quarter of 1977, the Canadian dollar declined in value by about 10 per cent. This means that a $42 per hundredweight price for choice steers at Omaha during the fourth quarter would be nearly the equivalent of $46 per hundredweight in Canadian funds. (The fourth quarter average for A1 and A2 steers in Calgary was approximately $45 to $46 per hundredweight). "If this situation continues throughout 1978, the Canadian price relationship to the U.S. price will continue. However, if the Canadian dollar strengthens, our price advantage will tend to decrease," Mr. Kraut says.

- (cont'd) -

1978 Cattle Outlook (cont'd)

A year-end review of the cattle situation and a more detailed outlook for 1978 is contained in "The Market Analysis", available free of charge from the Economic Services Branch, 301 Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRICE OUTLOOK

Lower hog prices are predicted for 1978.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Maurice Kraut, says that because Canada will be a net importer of pork from the United States for most of this year, U.S. hog prices, which are forecast to be lower, will have a significant effect on Canadian hog prices.

At the present time U.S. hog prices on a live weight basis are expected to be $36 to $38 per hundredweight during the first quarter of this year, $33 to $36 per hundredweight during the second and third quarters and $28 to $34 per hundredweight during the fourth quarter. "Using the current value of the Canadian dollar", says Mr. Kraut, "these prices translate on a dressed basis into a Toronto price of $53 to $56 for the first quarter, $48 to $53 for the second and third quarters and $42 to $50 for the fourth quarter."

Agriculture Canada forecasts Canadian hog prices in Toronto in 1978 to average between $48 and $52 per hundredweight dressed. These forecasters expect prices in Toronto to average above $50 per hundredweight dressed in the first half of the year, and below $50 per hundredweight dressed during the second half.

Mr. Kraut says "Our price expectations for Alberta, which are based on anticipated 1978 beef and pork supplies, are $52 to $57 per hundredweight dressed for the first quarter, $47 to $52 per hundredweight dressed for the second and third quarters and $40 to $45 per hundredweight dressed for the fourth quarter."

It appears that North American hog production will continue to increase throughout 1978, and possibly peak sometime in 1979. Although Canadian hog production will be up 8 to 11 per cent for the year, according to Mr. Kraut, this country could still be a net importer in 1978.

Mr. Kraut anticipates that even with increasing hog production, hog feeding in Canada will be profitable again this year, providing that feed grain prices remain at current levels or go

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Hog Price Outlook (cont'd)

slightly lower. He says "This certainly seems to be the case at the present time, but an attempt to ascertain domestic price levels, which are based on grain carryover levels, is a risky business, particularly when one considers the unpredicable requirements of Russia and China."

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP AND LAMB OUTLOOK

"The devalued Canadian dollar can be expected to have a continuing positive affect on the sheep industry throughout 1978," says Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Canada is very heavily dependent upon imports of live U.S. slaughter lambs to supplement her domestic supplies. Therefore, if the Canadian dollar maintains a value of $0.90 to $0.95 U.S., lamb prices in this country will be bid up accordingly, and this increased support will be most evident in the second quarter of the year. It is at that time that American imports normally make up the largest proportion of Canadian federally inspected slaughter.

Mr. Gray says prices will also be influenced by consumer demand, particularly in Eastern Canada, and a reduced domestic supply of slaughter lambs. He does not think that consumers in Eastern Canada are likely to change their lamb consumption pattern, despite the relative economic depression in that part of the country and higher lamb prices. This phenomenon, known as an inelastic demand, is the result of the high priority which many Easterners place on fresh lamb in their diets.

Alberta sheep producers can expect to benefit from the generally improved lamb prices in 1978, and they may also benefit from a reduced price spread between Western and Eastern Canadian markets resulting from the more aggressive bidding by processors for the reduced supply of slaughter lamb. "However, this potential price spread reduction will depend upon the sheep industry's ability to assemble a sufficient volume of slaughter lambs to stimulate an active participation in the market by Eastern buyers or their representatives," Mr. Gray says.

A comprehensive review of the 1977 sheep and lamb situation, including the positive effect the devaluation of the Canadian dollar has had on lamb prices in Canada, is contained in the "Market Anaylsis." This quarterly publication is available from the Economic Services Branch, 301 Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOYBEANS CULTIVAR TO BE LICENSED FOR ALBERTA

A soybean cultivar that has been tested at Brooks and Bow Island in southern Alberta is expected to be licensed this year.

Dr. R. G. Gaudiel of the Horticultural Research Station at Brooks, who has been working on 16 advanced soybean breeding lines and cultivars with plant breeders from Agriculture Canada's research station in Ottawa, reports that three and four of the 16 lines being tested matured about 10 days and 14.5 days respectively earlier than the rest of the lines. Yields at Bow Island ranged from 1,900 kg/ha (1,700 pounds per acre) to 2,600 kg/ha (2,300 pounds per acre).

Although soybeans are grown in Eastern Canada, a large volume of soybean meal is imported every year from the United States. Until now Manitoba is the only place where soybeans have been successfully grown in Western Canada, but the fact that several lines did so well in the southern Alberta tests this year could mean that this province will one day be self-sufficent in this valuable livestock feed.

Soybeans contain 20 per cent oil and about 40 per cent protein on a dry weight basis. After the oil has been extracted, the remaining meal contains 44 to 50 per cent protein. It is used as a high quality protein supplement for beef and dairy cattle and hogs Although fababeans are better adapted to Alberta's climatic conditions than soybeans, they will not replace soybean meal as a protein supplement because they lack some essential amino acids.

Soybeans are a row crop that lends itself to irrigation, and the same equipment can be used for growing and harvesting the beans as is used for other row crops. For example, they can be swathed and combined with conventional equipment, but special weed control measures have to be taken because they do not compete well with weeds.

- (cont'd) -

Soybeans Cultivar To Be Licensed For Alberta (cont'd)

Since properly innoculated soybeans will fix nitrogen from the atmosphere, they require less fertilizer that cereal crops. The price of seed, which is about 20¢ a pound, makes them competitive from a production point of view with cereal crops.

Larry Gareau of Alberta Agriculture says that the soybean varieties that have been tested in Alberta in the past take too long to mature to be of any value. However, he foresees the day when soybeans will be profitably grown here, but warns that it will likely be some years before seed of the varieties now being tested is commercially available.

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNOWMOBILES CAN DAMAGE UNDERLYING CROPS

Many snowmobile operators are unaware of the damage their machines may be doing to crops when they drive them across farmers' fields.

There is usually no problem if the snow is deep and the machine makes only one or two passes over the same area. If, however, the snow cover is light, and/or the machine is driven over the same area a number of times, underlying winter cereals and forage crops, especially legumes, are likely to be damaged, says Alberta Agriculture's Forage Crops specialist, Larry Gareau.

Deep, fluffy snow (over 30 cm) insulates underlying plants from the frost, but if the snow is complacted under the tracks of a snowmobile, its insulating value is either reduced or destroyed. Plants under the compacted snow will suffer from suffocation. If an alfalfa crop is subjected to badly compacted snow during its first winter, there is every chance that its yield will be reduced over the entire life of the stand. The additional water content of compacted snow can also cause ice to form which may badly smother and destroy the underlying crops.

About the only thing a farmer can do to protect his winter cereal and forage crops from snowmobile damage is to keep the gates of these fields closed and to post warning signs. If the farmer himself wants to cross such a field by snowmobile, he can keep this damage to a minimum by following the edge of the field, or by making only one pass over the same place.

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND WORLD SIMMENTAL CONGRESS

The Second World Simmental Congress, hosted by the Canadian Simmental Association, will take place in conjunction with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede from July 5 to 11 (inclusive), 1978. It will be preceded by a meeting of delegates, all of whom are members of the World Simmental Federation, from 30 countries.

The theme of the congress will be "The Global Beef Business". There will be a one-day symposium devoted to beef prospects and some of its limitations in various parts of the world. Topics will include producer problems of feed conversion, energy, water supply costs and consumer constraints. Delegates will attend lectures, tour a number of local ranches and take part in the shows and sales.

All segments of the Simmental breed will be represented at the congress. There will be a steer show and sale, a junior heifer show and a crossbred steer futurity show with a guaranteed minimum prize of $3,000. There will also be a sale of 60 to 70 heads of top quality Simmental breeding stock. Entries are expected from breeders in the United States and the United Kingdom as well as from across Canada.

The agriscope section of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede will be devoted mainly to Simmental congress activities. It will feature all aspects of the Simmental business and display a large number of Simmental cattle, including special exhibits of crossbreds.

Social events planned for the congress will include barbecues, branding demonstrations, barrel racing and a barn dance. It is expected that well over 1,000 people will take part in the Second World Simmental Congress' scheduled activities.

Further information can be obtained from:

The Canadian Simmental Association,
Suite 400, 320 – 9th Avenue, S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta,
Canada, T2P 1K6

(Telephone 403–261–3666)

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN FARMING WITH METRICS

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler

On February 1, 1978 the Canadian grain industry switched to metric. As of that date, prices for various grains and grades are quoted as dollars and cents per tonne.

Quota deliveries will be expressed in kilograms (kg) per acre (ac). There are no longer any statutory densities (bushel weights) for grain since all transactions are on a weight basis and are not converted to volume. For example, a 3-bushel quota on wheat will now be referred to as 82 kg/ac. A 10-bushel quota for oats will now be announced as 155 kg/ac.

Grain yields will be quoted in kilograms per acre or metric tons (tonnes) per acre. A tonne (t) is equal to 1,000 kg. Grain seeding rates will be given as kilograms per acre.

Measuring Grain in the Bin

Determining the amount of grain you have in the bin requires information about the bin volume and the bulk density of the grain. The approximate density of the grain can be calculated from the test weight obtained at the elevator.

A helpful hint to remember is that one pound per bushel is equal to about 12.5 kg per cubic metre (m^3). If the wheat tests out at 58 pounds per bushel, the bulk density of the wheat is 725 kg/m^3. If the barley tests out at 50 pounds per bushel, its bulk density is 625 kg/m^3 (12.5 x 50). To calculate the amount of grain in the bin, simply multiply the bin volume by the bulk density of the grain. This will give the weight of the grain in kilograms. To convert to tonnes, simply move the decimal point three places to the left.

- (cont'd) -

Grain Farming With Metrics (cont'd)

Let's take an example to see how it is done:

Bin Volume — 80 m^3

Bulk density of wheat — 750 kg/m^3 (if test weight is 60 lb. per bushel)

Weight of grain in bin — 50,000 kg (750 x 80)

Expressed in tonnes this is 50 t.

The average bulk densities for wheat, barley, oats and rapeseed are 750, 620, 470, and 640 kg/m^3 respectively. If you know the amount of grain (bushels) in your bin as well as the test weight, you can readily calculate the weight of the grain.

For example, if the bin holds 2,000 bushels of barley with a test weight of 45 pounds per bushel, the weight of the grain is 90,000 pounds. In metric this is 40,909 kg or 40.9 t.

Two publications "Metric and Grain Handling" and "The Metric System For Farmers" are available from district agriculturists and the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP SEMINAR FOR FARM FAMILIES

"Managing Agricultural Technology For Profit 1978" is the theme of a workshop seminar for farm families that will be held at the Banff Centre of Advanced Education in Banff from March 20 to 22.

The workshop seminar is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and will cover the following:

- "Modern Business Techniques and the Farm" by Dr. H. Drache of Bonazaland Enterprises, Minnesota, U.S.A.
- "The Computer and the Farm - - How Can It Be Used?" by Dr. H. Dorster of Purdue University, who will talk on the Purdue top farmer workshop; J. McGrann of Iowa State University, who will discuss the use of programmable calculators on the farm; and G. Bradshaw of Agriculture Canada, who will outline computerized record keeping systems.
- "Minimum Tillage" — Speakers on this subject will be Vern Hoffman, extension agricultural engineer, North Dakota; Elmer Stobbe, weed specialist, University of Manitoba; Hank Vander Pluym, plant industry, Lethbridge,Jim McCutcheon, a Manitoba farmer, and Lloyd Andruchow, agricultural economist, Edmonton.
- "Financial Management" — One of the speakers will be Don Gibbs, farmer and agricultural consultant with the National Farm Management Services in Winnipeg, who will discuss sources of funds for established businesses and financial control of the farm business. The other speakers will be Judy Crawford, district home economist at Vulcan, Karen McDougall, district home economist at Warner and Pauline McCardle, district home economist at Medicine Hat. Their topics will be "Dollars and Cents". "Credit Awareness" and "Spending Patterns in the Family Life Cycle " respectively.

- (cont'd) -

Agricultural Management Workshop Seminar For Farm Families (cont'd)

- "Winter Wheat" by Urban F. Pittman of Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge.
- "Forage Systems" by Orly Friesen of Manitoba Agriculture and Len Fullen of Alberta Agriculture.
- "Business Organizations In Farming" — One of the speakers will be Grey Bowden, a lawyer with Gernie, Sturrock and Bowden, Vancouver, who will speak on "Comparing Business Organizations - - - The Tax Implications" and "Estate Planning". Jean Wilson, district home economist at Airdrie will speak on "Values and Goals" and Maureen McNutt, district home economist at Foremost, will discuss "Planning Today For Tomorrow".
- "Marketing Factors in the Decision Making Process" — John Prentice, hog producer/entrepreneur from Calmar and Harry Haney, feedlot and irrigation farmer from Coaldale, will discuss livestock marketing. Another speaker will talk about crop marketing.
- "The Land Purchase Decision - - To Buy or Not To Buy" by Gayle Willett of Washington State University, Washington, U.S.A.

The workshop seminar agenda has been arranged to enable participants to take in two subjects in each group and to have an opportunity to discuss any specific points or techniques in relation to their own farm with the speakers.

Registration will take place from 4:30 p.m. on March 19. The registration fee is $50 for a single person and $75 for a couple. It will cover midday and evening meals, and the duplication of lecture papers.

The cost of accommodation at the Banff Centre will be $21.50 per night for a single person, and $14.50 per night for double occupancy.

Further information on the workshop seminar and application forms can be obtained from Paul Snead, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0 (Telephone 226-8305). Participants will be limited to the first 200 applicants.

February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF MIRRORS TO INCREASE LIGHT AVAILABLE TO HOUSE PLANTS

If you use fluorescent lamps on your houseplants, you can recycle the light by using mirrors.

Chris Campbell, horticultural specialist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that research horticulturists with the United States Department of Agriculture have found that the light available to house plants grown under fluorescent lamps can be increased by 25 per cent or more if mirrors are placed on the ceiling above the plants and on the floor below the plants. If a mirror is placed behind the plants as well, the reflected light will be increased even more. "Be careful", says Ms. Campbell, "that the mirrors are not in direct sunlight because reflected sunlight can burn the plants".

If your plants are in a special area you can increase the total amount of light they receive by painting the shelves on which they stand, the ceiling and the surrounding walls white, regardless of whether or not you use fluorescent lamps. A white painted surface reflects about 80 per cent of the light that strikes it whereas colored walls and furnishings absorb some of the light that strikes them.

Since the light from fluorescent lamps travels mainly in straight lines, every time you double the distance between the lamp and the plants, the light that is available to the plants is cut approximately in half. Ms. Campbell says placing fluorescent lamps 30 - 45 cm above the plants will give best results with many of them.

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February 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATRIMONIAL PROPERTIES LEGISLATION

The Alberta government would like to receive as much "input" as possible by early March concerning the recently introduced matrimonial properties legislation.

Although most Albertans agree that matrimonial property should be shared upon the break-up of a marriage, the way this should be done is not always agreed upon.

Two ways of sharing matrimonial property have been suggested. The way that was recommended by the Institute of Law Research and Reform is called deferred sharing. Under this method the value of the property each spouse owned originally would be calculated when the marriage broke up and allotted to the original owner plus an equal division of the assets acquired during the marriage. In some case, a spouse with greater assets would be expected to make compensatory payments to his or her partner.

The other method of dividing matrimonial property was recently introduced to the legislature and is called judicial discretion. Under this method the judge would decide, using 19 different criteria, how the property should be distributed upon the break-up of a marriage.

Since the difference between the two methods is considerable, it is important that the public study each method carefully and then express their opinions on the subject. That is the best way of getting good legislation.

To find out the details of each method, you can write to the attorney general's office and ask for copies of Bills 102 and 103. The address is 404, Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

You can also write to Barbara Hill of the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee. Her address is Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N7 and ask for the question and answer booklet and the critique of the government's bill on matrimonial property.

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Matrimonial Properties Legislation (cont'd)

Most district home economist offices have information on this subject which they will be pleased to share and explain. When you have obtained the facts and formed an opinion on the subject, you should contact the attorney general, your cabinet ministers, and your MLA to give them your views.

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AGRI-NEWS

February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

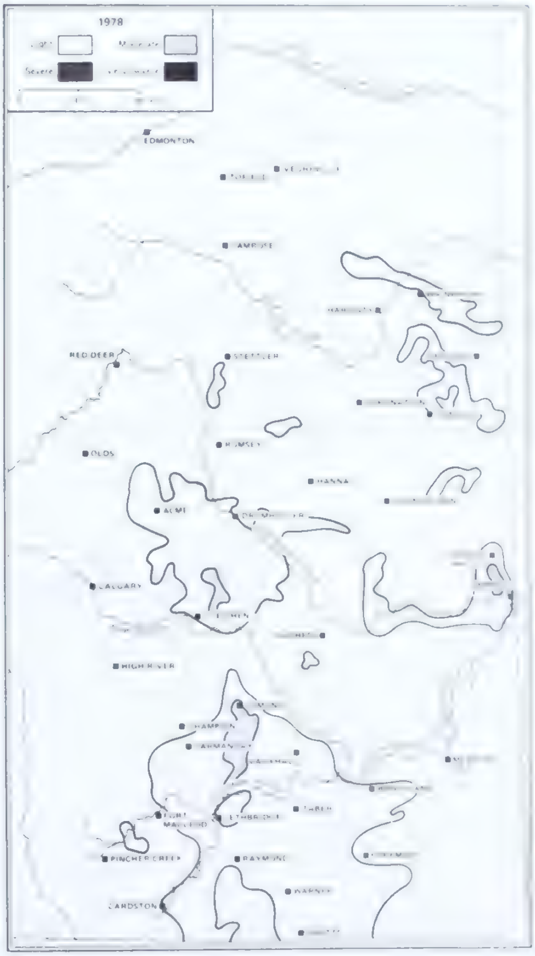
1978 ALBERTA GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

Most of the grasshopper control activities in 1978 will be required in three relatively small areas, according to the grasshopper forecast issued by Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge.

The largest of these moderately infested areas is located between Lethbridge and Lomond in southern Alberta. A small moderately infested area is located northeast of Gleichen and the smallest area is located between Empress and Acadia Valley.

The Lethbridge scientists define a moderate infestation as one in which the number of adult grasshoppers averaged between 2.5 and 5 per square metre (2 to 4 per square yard) last fall.

The need for control in areas forecast to be moderately infested will depend partly upon the number of grasshoppers that hatch in the spring from eggs laid last fall, and partly upon the kind of weather that prevails at that time. The weather determines how rapidly the eggs hatch, the activity of the young grasshoppers and crop conditions.



1978 Grasshopper Forecast

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Phone (403) 427-2127

1978 Alberta Grasshopper Forecast (cont'd)

Dr. N. D. Holmes of the Lethbridge research station says variations in grasshopper populations are normal, and that there have been five main grasshopper outbreaks in Alberta since 1918. They lasted from three to 14 years. The periods of low infestation between these outbreaks lasted from three to nine years.

According to Dr. Holmes, Alberta's grasshopper population fell in 1977 to its lowest level since 1969, and there were no very severe or severe infestations. A similar drop was experienced in Saskatchewan.

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February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BULL SELECTION

Are you wondering what type of bull you should buy this spring? This important decision should be given very careful consideration because your choice can affect your cow herd for many years to come.

Judd Bunnage, record of performance supervisor of beef cattle with Alberta Agriculture, reports that scientists are attempting to help cattlemen to come up with realistic and effective selection methods. However, a great deal of data analysis still has to be done before final guidelines will be available. In the meantime, it is possible to gain considerable insight by studying the relationships that exist among various traits.

This topic was discussed in detail at the annual Beef Improvement Federation meeting that was held in Boseman, Montana, last year. Results obtained by Dr. Don Kress of Montana State University when selecting for a number of different traits are shown in the following table. The traits selected are shown in the left-hand column, and the effect of this selection on them and other related traits are shown in the right-hand columns.

GENETIC PROGRESS PER GENERATION*

Trait Selected	Birth Weight (lb)	Weaning Weight (lb)	Postweaning Gain (lb)	Yearling Weight (lb)	Mature Weight (lb)
Birth Weight	5.4	15	15	29	40
Weaning Weight	2.6	21	12	29	28
Postweaning Gain	3.2	15	28	41	23
Yearling Weight	3.7	21	24	48	42
Mature Weight	3.8	15	10	32	69

* Based on selecting the top 5% of bulls and top 50% of heifers using individual performance.

It can be seen from the above table that the largest improvement in a specific trait is achieved when that trait is selected for in a particular breeding program. For example, when

- (cont'd) -

Bull Selection (cont'd)

yearling weight alone was selected, the rate of improvement for this trait was 48 pounds per generation. At the same time, the birth weight increased by 3.7 pounds the weaning weight by 21 pounds, the postweaning weight by 24 pounds and the mature weight by 42 pounds.

Deciding which trait to emphasize is the biggest problem faced by cattlemen, according to Mr. Bunnage. He points out that current selling practices favor cattle which have a heavy mature weight. Most sales feature two-year-old bulls, and the large bulls usually bring the higher prices. However, he does not recommend selecting for mature weight alone because, in his opinion, this trait is one of the least effective performance traits for improving production efficiency.

Although weight-per-day of age (WDA) is a better trait to select, it has a drawback in that it encourages overfeeding. "When WDA is calculated for yearlings, it favors early growth which is desirable from an efficiency point of view," Mr. Bunnage says, "and it minimizes the effect of overfeeding, but in the case of two-year-old animals, it favors large mature size or fat bulls, and this is not desirable."

He feels that selecting for yearling weight is probably the best all-purpose trait to choose. He points out that weaning weight and postweaning gain both improve at the same time, and even though mature weight also increases, it does not increase as fast as when this trait is specificially selected. There may be a problem in selecting for yearling weight in that birth weight also increases, but current research shows that it is now possible to select for yearling weight and at the same time select against heavier birth weight. In this case progress will be slower. "Probably the best idea," says Mr. Bunnage, "is to select for yearling weight until birth weights become a problem in the herd, and then to use the dual selection method."

He advises cattlemen buying bulls this spring to ask the breeder to show them the performance data on the bull they are interested in, and then to base their selection on yearling weight or its index. He also recommends paying particular attention to where the bull ranked in his own group. If it ranked well and its yearling weight looks good, the animal is probably a good candidate, providing he is healthy and sound in other respects.

February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAGNETIC SEED TREATMENT RESEARCH RESULTS

Because of the lack of response to magnetic seed treatment that has been reported from some areas outside Alberta, Agriculture Canada's research scientists at Lethbridge have been studying the interaction of magnetic seed treatment with applied fertilizers and available soil moisture.

According to Urban Pittman, who is in charge of this work, the tests showed that adequate soil moisture must be available to plants, particularly during head-filling, to enable them to respond positively to magnetic seed treatment. He says that under carefully controlled conditions on the research plots, barley yields were increased from 104 to 126 bushels per acre or 21 per cent by magnetic seed treatment when both fertilizers and soil moisture were plentiful throughout the season.

He reports that the average yield of barley in 70 per cent of all field tests conducted by the Lethbridge research station from 1972 to 1977 was increased by 5.4 bushels per acre. In 83 per cent of the tests conducted on hard red winter wheat, the average yield was increased by 2.7 bushels per acre, and in 61 per cent of all tests carried out on hard red spring wheat, yields were increased by 2.5 bushels per acre. Mr. Pittman says 27 tests were carried out on barley, six on winter wheat and 24 on spring wheat, and that each test included several different magnetic treatments.

He points out that although average yields of durum and utility wheats, sunflowers and rapeseed were slightly increased by magnetic seed treatment at least 50 per cent of the time, those of fall rye, flax and oats were relatively unaffected. In only two tests carried out on dryland barley and in two carried out on dryland sorghum were yields seriously depressed. According to Mr. Pittman, these situations occurred when drought conditions were severe during head-filling time.

Last spring nine county seed-cleaning plants in southern Alberta magnetically treated enough barley to seed about 0.4 million acres and enough hard red spring wheat to plant about

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Magnetic Seed Treatment Research Results (cont'd)

1.3 million acres. "Significant and highly profitable yield increases occurred in these and other crops as a direct result of magnetic seed treatment," Mr. Pittman says.

Assuming yield increases similar to those quoted above and gross returns of $1.50 and $2.50 per bushel for barley and spring wheat respectively, an additional $2.3 million worth of barley and $5.3 million worth of hard spring wheat was produced in 1977 as a direct result of magnetic seed treatment at country seed-cleaning plants in southern Alberta. "These figures", Mr. Pittman explains, "do not include the additional grain production on the thousands of acres of land planted with seed that was magnetically treated by private seed-cleaning plants or individual farmers.

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February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDLOT STEERS AND RAPESEED GUMS

It seems that cattle feeders need have no concern over gums (a by-product of the rapeseed crushing industry) being added to rapeseed meal.

There has been some concern in the feed industry that the addition of gums to rapeseed meal may have a detrimental effect on livestock and poultry performance, but an experiment conducted at the University of Alberta on feedlot steers showed that there is no cause for concern in the case of cattle.

Fifty steers with an initial weight of 300 kilograms were fed four diets containing 90 per cent concentrate and 10 per cent chopped barley straw and rapeseed meal plus levels of gums ranging up to 3 per cent of the diet. The control group received no rapeseed meal or rapeseed gums. All the steers in the trial, including the controls, had an average daily gain of 1.35 kg per day and ate 9.6 kg of feed per day.

Reporting on the results of the experiment, Dr. G. W. Mathison of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science, says that the addition of the rapeseed gums to the ration had no detrimental effect on average daily gain, feed conversion, feed digestibility or carcass characteristics. He points out that rapeseed gums would not normally be added to rapeseed meal at a level of more than one or 2 per cent of the meal, which means that they would not exceed 0.1 per cent of the total diet of feedlot steers. Dietary levels of over 10 times this amount did not cause any adverse effects on feedlot performance, carcass characteristics or nutrient digestibility in the University of Alberta's experiment. Dr. Mathison says it can be concluded that rapeseed meal containing added gums should be acceptable to the cattle feeding industry.

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February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREPARING FOR AND BROODING CHICKS

Ken Rowe, Alberta Agriculture's poultry specialist at Morinville, recommends recleaning and fumigating a brooderhouse a week before the arrival of the current year's chicks even though it was white-washed and disinfected following the removal of the previous year's birds.

He suggests using 1.0 cm^3 of formaldehyde and 1.0 g of potassium permanganate for each .03 m^3 of air space (29.5 cm^3 = 1 oz, 1 cm^3 = 1 g). Close all openings while you are fumigating,and then open them half an hour later to thoroughly air the building.

Put 25 to 50 mm of litter on the floor, making sure it is clean and dust free. Mr. Rowe says wood shavings and peat moss are probably the best types of litter on the market today.

When you install the brooder stove, make sure it is properly vented, easily regulated and safe, and that it will provide enough heat. You should light it two or three days before the chicks arrive to ensure that it is working properly.

According to Mr. Rowe, a good poultryman lays a sheet of coarse brown paper or corrugated paper (not newspaper) over the litter, under and around the brooder hover, and sprinkles a generous amount of fresh chick starter. This practice enables the chicks to find their feed easily during their first day or two in the house. You should also provide plenty of trough feeders, filled them to the brim and place them so that they form a pattern like the spokes of a wheel around and partly under the hover. Once the chicks are well started, keep the feeders two-thirds full to avoid wastage.

There are a number of different types of waterers on the market for baby chicks, but many poultrymen start their birds with quart sealer founts. These should be placed at regular intervals around and under the hover, and there should be plenty of them. After the first week, replace the quart sealer founts with larger founts, and placed them on a small platform to prevent litter from mixing with the water and the founts from becoming clogged.

- (cont'd) -

Preparing For And Brooding Chicks (cont'd)

After you have placed the waterers around and under the hover, put a circle of corrugated carboard around the area containing the waterers and feeders to prevent the chicks from wandering too far away from the heat. The brooder temperature under the hover should be kept at 35°C for the first week and then reduced by 3°C every week. Once the chicks are fully feathered they can tolerate any normal temperature.

Leave the lights in the brooderhouse on all night for two or three days after the chicks arrive. Then provide a dim light for the next 10 days to allow the chicks to get used to the dark. Chicks from two to eight weeks old should have 12 hours of light a day.

Mr. Rowe recommends feeding a good commercial chick starter for at least the first six weeks of the chicks' lives. "It is also advisable", he says, "to provide some chick-sized grit when the birds are two or three days old."

He endorses the practice, followed by some old-time poultrymen, of feeding good whole oats or oat groats in a feeder to pullet chicks when they are two weeks old, and continuing to provide this feed throughout the lives of the birds.

February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FARMERS AND DIESEL MECHANICS WANTED FOR TANZANIA

Agriculture Canada is looking for farmers with experience in modern dryland wheat farming in Western Canada and for diesel mechanics with experience in repairing and maintaining farm machinery to go Tanzania in East Africa.

Successful applicants will serve as advisors on one of the three 10,000 acre dryland wheat farms in the northern highlands of Tanzania that are being operated by Agriculture Canada. Their role will be to help the Tanzanian farm managers with management and operational decisions and to teach the Tanzanian workers how to operate and maintain modern farm machinery. Most of the Tanzanians on these farms have had little previous experience with any kind of machinery. Since the Canadians will be spending a great deal of their time training and teaching, it is important they enjoy this type of work.

The three farms are located about 140 miles (854 km) south of Basotu in a dryland region of northern Tanzania where the annual precipitation is approximately 22 inches (550 mm). The machinery used on the farms is all manufactured by International Harvester, and most of it was purchased within the last two or three years. Wheat yields under Canadian wheat production methods have averaged around 30 bushels per acre during the last two years.

Each farm will have one Canadian farmer who will function as a trainer-operator, and one mechanic. They will work with the Tanzanian farm manager and about 30 workers. Since the three farms are within a radius of only 10 or 12 miles (16 or 19 km) of each other and there is a wheat research and management team consisting of about a dozen Canadians who work closely with the farm staff, there will be a small Canadian community in this relatively isolated area.

The Canadians will be provided with houses on the farms by the Tanzanian Government and each will have a vehicle for his work and for his private use. Their fees will be negotiated,

- (cont'd) -

Canadian Farmers And Diesel Mechanics Wanted For Tanzania (cont'd)

and they will receive an overseas allowance and other benefits and allowances as specified under the Canadian International Development Agency regulations which cover overseas assignments. Two-year assigments are preferred to shorter periods.

Further information can be obtained from:

J. S. Clark
Soil Research Institute
Canada Agriculture
Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C6

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February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SODIUM LAMPS FOR PROPAGATING PLANTS

Tests carried out at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in the United States show that sodium lamps may be more effective than cool white fluorescent lights for propagating plants in growth chambers and for supplementing sunlight in greenhouses.

According to information received by Alberta Agriculture from the American Research Service, low-pressure sodium lamps and high-pressure sodium lamps are more effective than cool white fluorescent lamps for starting plants and could give growers substantial increases in plant yields as well as savings in energy costs.

After 15 days in growth chambers where the only variable was light, lettuce and petunias grown under low-pressure sodium lamps combined with incandescent lamps were the most advanced in growth. The petunias had 53 per cent more fresh weight than petunias grown under cool white fluorescent light and 38 per cent more fresh weight than those grown under cool white fluorescent light and incandescent light. The petunias grown under low-pressure sodium lamps and incandescent lamps were also taller and had a few more nodes than those grown under the other lamps. Petunias grown under high-pressure sodium lamps and incandescent lamps were 8 per cent more advanced than those grown under cool white fluorescent lamps and incandescent lights.

The lettuce plants grown under low-pressure sodium lamps and incandescent lamps were 27 per cent taller and approximately equal in fresh weight to those grown under cool white fluorescent lights or under cool white fluorescent and incandescent lights.

In tests where artificial lighting was used to control daylength to produce flowers for seasonal sales, results showed that the fresh weights of petunias grown under low-pressure sodium and incandescent lights were 20, 94, 146 and 64 per cent heavier than petunias grown under cool white fluorescent and incandescent lights for photoperiods of 4, 8, 16 and 24 hours respectively. Fresh weights for those grown under high-pressure sodium and incandescent lights were 64, 84 and 13 per cent heavier than those grown under cool white fluorescent and incandescent lights in photoperiods of 18, 16 and 24 hours respectively.

- (cont'd) -

Sodium Lamps for Propogating Plants (cont'd)

When over 100 species of plant seedlings which received 16 hours of supplemental low-pressure sodium or high-pressure sodium lighting were compared in greenhouses with the same species grown under cool white fluorescent and incandescent lamps, all the species grew as well under the low pressure and high pressure sodium supplemental greenhouse lighting as in the growth chambers.

According to the American scientists low-pressure sodium lamps produce more light per lamp than cool white fluorescent lamps do. The scientists found that three 180-watt low-pressure sodium lamps can light an area that would take eight 115-watt cool white fluorescent lamps to light. High-pressure sodium lamps were found to have a similar efficiency, and both the low and high-pressure sodium lamps caused less shading of crops than the cool white fluorescent lamps. However, the initial purchase price of low-and high-pressure sodium lamps is relatively high compared with the price of cool white fluorescent lamps.

Because low-pressure sodium lamps are tubular in shape, they can be used in designs similar to those used for cool white fluorescent lamps, but high-pressure sodium lamps require a different type of reflector. It is parabolic in shape as opposed to the linear reflectors which are used for cool white fluorescent and low-pressure sodium lights.

Further information on this subject can be obtained from the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Room 101, Bldg. 004, BARC-West, Beltsville, M.D. 20705, U.S.A.

February 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY

by Jan Warren
Alberta Agriculture's District Home Economist at Stettler

A great deal of time and money has been poured into heart disease research and a few of our eating habits have been identified as habits that could increase the risk of heart disease This February is Heart Month and it is important that you and I be aware of some things we can do to avoid these risks and improve our heart health.

One of the risk factors we are aware of is hyperlipidemia - - - that is high levels of fat in the blood stream. We can control the cholesterol level in the blood by reducing our intake of saturated fats - - - a saturated fat is usually of animal origin and is generally hard at room temperature. We can avoid these by eating lean meats, fish and poultry more often as the meat part of the meal; by trimming visible fat off all cuts of meat; and by eating less butter, whole milk cheese, eggs, and mayonnaise. Consuming polyunsaturated fats instead may even benefit you by helping to lower your blood cholesterol level. These kinds of fats include various oils (corn, sunflower), soft margarines and certain nuts, such as walnuts. Read all food labels carefully and try to choose those foods which list polyunsaturated fats in the food contents list.

Since obesity is another factor which affects heart disease, it is important to aim for and maintain an ideal body weight. For some of us this means getting on a sensible diet which will keep us healthy and point us towards a permanent weight loss and better eating habits. Usually the limiting of sugar and alcohol and the substitution of a fair amount of natural starches and sugars from fruit, vegetables and whole-grain breads will modify many risk factors. Here are some simple adaptations to Canada's four basic food groups which will keep your heart content.

Milk and Milk Products — Choose low-fat milk, cheeses and all other dairy products. Ice milk and sherbet are your best alternatives on a hot day!

- (cont'd) -

Keep Your Heart Healthy (cont'd)

Meats and Alternates — Choose lean meats, preferably poultry, fish or veal. Other meats are suitable in limited amounts and should be broiled, roasted, baked or stewed; not fried or deep-fat fried.

Fruits and Vegetables — Eat plenty of celery, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and fresh fruits. Reduce your risk by eating less canned fruit or calorie-rich pastries.

Breads and Cereals — Include bran muffins, whole wheat breads and cereals as natural roughage. Buy margarines and oils which are high in polyunsaturated fats and low in saturated fats. Count your calories, eat "square" meals and your heart will be the healthier for it!

AGRI·NEWS

CANADIANA

February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED

Alberta Minister of Agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced the appointment of a chairman and ten members to the Alberta Forage Seed Council.

The council announced by Mr. Moore on July 5, 1977 will advise the government on agricultural policy, act as liaison between each industry sector and prepare and distribute resource material to growers, processors, and governments. The council has been established for an initial three-year period.

The new chairman of the council will be Marcel Maisonneuve, a producer from McLennan, Alberta.

The six producer-members of the council will be Ken Long from Cardston, Jerry Freundl of Brooks, Bruce McDougal from Edmonton, Jean Langelier of Falher, Norman Drysdale from Clairmont, and Oscar Gudlanson from Beaverlodge.

Other members appointed to the council include Doug Cooper of the Western Seed Trade Association (Alberta Branch) located in Edmonton; Dr. Robert Elliott of Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge; Robin Hopkins of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (Alberta Branch), Peace River; and Don Macyk and Larry Gareau of Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton.

"The council came about from a series of producer meetings held by a Forage Seed Study Group formed in 1975," said Mr. Moore. "The group was formed to find some structure for discussing and developing solutions to forage seed industry problems," added the minister.

Mr. Moore said he expects the council to be in operation in two weeks.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POULTRY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Chicken prices at the producer level are not expected to increase significantly in 1978, but lower feed costs compared with last year have improved current producer margins.

This is the opinion of Gordon Grosh of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch who predicts that national chicken production will increase by 3 per cent in the first quarter of 1978 and could increase further during the second quarter.

Mr. Grosh says a national agency may or may not be formed this year. Since the impact such an agency would have on the industry remains unclear, the outlook for chicken production is also unclear.

Price movements for chicken depend upon the price of chicken relative to other meats. The supply of other meats in 1978 is expected to be the same as it was last year. With slower grain movement and lower feed grain prices in 1977 and 1978, pork prices which have been relatively high over the last two years are expected to remain at current levels or to go lower in 1978.

Alberta's chicken production per capita exceeds that of most of the other provinces. Although the province produces only 2.1 per cent of Canada's commercial roasters, it is the major producer of cornish game hens.

Eggs

Egg prices for the Canadian producer could drop again in 1978. Mr. Grosh says this is especially likely to happen if crop prospects in the latter half of the year increase feed grain supplies.

Whether these downward price movements will be reflected in increased per capita consumption is doubtful according to Mr. Grosh. He points out that egg consumption does not appear to be particularly sensitive to price declines. He also believes that 1978 could be a more difficult year for the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) from the point of view of reducing production in response to decreased consumer demand.

- (cont'd) -

Poultry Situation (cont'd)

Alberta egg producers may find 1978 a frustrating year because they could be forced to cut production despite the fact that provincial demand is increasing.

Turkeys

Turkey prices in 1978 will probably be the same or higher than they were last year at both producer and retail levels.

If the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency succeeds in maintaining 1977 consumption levels this year and a desirable storage level of 30 million pounds, 201 million pounds will be required in 1978.

The turkey agency has set the quota at 190 million pounds which could possibly leave the Canadian market short by 10 million pounds. "If this smaller supply is not adjusted upwards, margins should improve," Mr. Grosh says. "However, a shorter supply will probably reduce per capita consumption or invite imports as was the case in 1976."

Alberta's turkey production will again be insufficient to meet provincial requirements according to Mr. Grosh. The Alberta and the B.C. turkey boards have both requested additional quotas for 1978. However, the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency has not yet made any decision on the requests.

During the past 10 years Alberta's turkey production has remained relatively static at about 17 million pounds per annum. Because of the population increase, the province has moved from being a net exporter (to neighboring provinces) to become a net importer of turkey products. At the present time Alberta's commercial market share is 7.9 per cent of Canadian production.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZER SITUATION

This spring Alberta and the other two prairie provinces can expect the same or lower fertilizer prices compared to 1977 prices.

Adolph Goettel, head of Alberta Agriculture's soils branch, says 1978 fertilizer prices are expected to be the same or lower than last year's because supplies are good and demand could be weaker this year.

Mr. Goettel says relatively low farm commodity prices and low grain quotas may also result in this year's fertilizer sales being below the record 636,000 tons sold in 1976. Estimated Alberta fertilizer sales to June 30, 1977 - - - the end of the fertilizer year - - - are 598,000 tons. In view of this situation, fertilizer supplies will be more than adequate to meet farmers' needs providing current production levels hold.

However, Mr. Goettel warns this good news should not lull farmers into a false sense of security. He points out that even though fertilizer supplies are adequate, there will be more spring deliveries made this year than last, even if the total demand for fertilizers is no larger than that of last spring.

"Because last fall's late harvest prevented the fall application of fertilizer and/or farm fertilizer deliveries, our transportation system will be taxed to the limit to meet the demand for spring deliveries," Mr. Goettel says.

The situation could be further complicated by an early spring and prolonged road bans. Even though a large portion of fertilizer deliveries are made by truck in this province, thereby providing considerable mobility to meet the variations in supply and demand as the season progresses, Mr. Goettel advises farmers to order and if possible take delivery of fertilizer before they start seeding.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SECTOR REORGANIZED

Alberta Agriculture marketing sector has been reorganized and is now called the economics and marketing services group. It is composed of two divisions the marketing services division and the economics services division.

The objective of the economics and marketing services group is to develop and expand Alberta's primary and processing agricultural industries. Its activities involve providing market, business, economic and analytical support to individuals, commodity groups, farm organizations and agricultural businesses in order to encourage the processing, packaging, and selling of Alberta's agricultural products.

Marketing Services Division

The marketing services division has five branches.

The commodity development branch stimulates and helps producer groups with promotional and market development endeavors. It also helps them to develop domestic market opportunities by removing obstacles and barriers and by developing sales programs for the industry.

The agricultural processing development branch helps producers and processors to increase the quantity and quality of raw agricultural commodities processed in Alberta, and to develop and improve food products. The food research centre is part of this branch.

The food marketing branch is responsible for developing and expanding domestic marketing opportunities for Alberta food products through marketing assistance, information, research, and promotion.

The food laboratory services branch provides analytical and consulting services to Alberta's food industries and related provincial agencies, analyzes milk samples from dairy producers and conducts dairy herd improvement test.

The business analysis branch does financial analysis for agriculturally related businesses and emphasises the need for good financial and business management practices. It also brings currently available assistance to the attention of agribusiness.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Agriculture Marketing Division Reorganized (cont'd)

Economics Services Division

The economics services division has six branches.

The market analysis branch carries out market analysis and research. It also provides education and market information programs on grains and oilseeds, livestock, special crops and commodities, foreign markets and business management.

The production economics branch conducts programs related to cost of production, economic feasibility, research, transportation, materials handling, formula pricing and economic evaluation of modern technology for new production methods.

The resource economics branch is responsible for research programs in natural resource development, environmental management and natural resource intelligence. It has extension, advisory and consultative programs in resource use and economics to inform and assist the public, department staff and provincial agencies which are engaged in land use programs and policy development.

The farm business management branch provides programs on farm business management analysis, financial planning, business organization, taxation, accounting and the development of business management strategies.

The statistics branch collects, compiles, analyzes, develops and disseminates agricultural statistics. It also issues reports on crop and livestock conditions in Alberta and provides cost, income and business statistical trends.

The regional economics and business services branch maintains a staff of regional farm economists to service the economic needs of production specialist and regional and district extension offices located throughout the province. Emphasis is directed towards the marketing, management and business development needs of individual agricultural producers, industries and staff.

February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AG-EXPO '78 OPENS MARCH 1

Ag-Expo, a late winter seed fair, short course and machinery display all rolled into one, will open in Lethbridge March 1 and conclude on March 4.

A non-profit fair sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Lethbridge and District Exhibition Association and the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, Ag-Expo '78 will highlight speeches from the federal Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan, and the federal Minister of Transport, Otto Lang.

Mr. Whelan will speak Wednesday afternoon, March 1 and Mr. Lang will speak on Friday evening, March 3. Both men will face a question panel following their remarks.

Other events highlighting this year's activities include a seed competition and display, an irrigation seminar, a Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute display, a giant farm machinery and equipment display, and for consumers, a demonstration kitchen and Ag-Expo shopping bonanza.

Showing particular promise is the seed fair which is rapidly becoming the largest in Canada. This year more than 50 classes will be contested including pedigreed seed, open seed, protein and quality, forage, bean, corn, hay, potato, rapeseed and various junior seed classes This year a new class has also been opened for seed cleaning plant operators.

For further information contact the Lethbridge Exhibition Association or the Lethbridge district griculturalist at 329-5237.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY DISPLAY IN LETHBRIDGE

Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch in co-operation with the Alberta Dairymen's Association will stage a promotion of Alberta dairy products in the Lethbridge Centre March 1 to 4.

The display has been planned to run concurrently with Ag-Expo '78 and is intended to increase awareness of Alberta dairy products with the large number of people attending the fair.

The promotion theme is 'Alberta Dairy Products — Good Food Value' which incorporates segments from the 'Better Buy Alberta' campaign. The display is being held in conjunction with an in-store dairy promotion by Woodward's which is located in the Centre.

The event will be attended by several leading dairy processors, and will feature a display by the Lethbridge Milk Foundation and a daily hamper draw of Alberta dairy products. Palm Dairies Limited, Alpha Milk Company and the U.I.B. Cheese Co-op Limited from Glenwood, Alberta will display their products and hold individual demonstrations allowing consumers to judge and taste each company's offerings.

To ease traffic and improve transportation between the Lethbridge Exhibition Grounds and Lethbridge Centre, a shuttle bus is scheduled to run between the sites.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTRA FEED HELPS RUNDOWN COWS

Poor feeds, especially low-quality winter feed and mediocre grazing conditions last summer and fall, have left some Alberta beef cows in poorer condition than they might normally be at this time of year.

With the calving season rapidly approaching, special attention must be paid to these animals if they are to drop healthy calves and are to continue to breed successfully.

"Cows in poor condition will be greatly weakened by the stress of calving," says Ruth Berg, animal nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture. "Calves will also suffer in that milk production of these cows will be less than normal, and cows in poor condition before calving will take longer to recover the conditioning they need for successful breeding."

In the last month before calving Ms. Berg advises feeding up to an extra five pounds of grain per day to cows which may be slightly rundown. Cows in extremely poor condition may need as much as 10 pounds per day of extra grain. Special attention should also be paid to the mineral and Vitamin A status of these cows, she adds.

To determine the exact condition of your cows and the extra rations they might require, Ms. Berg advises contacting local district agriculturalists or veterinarians. They have the experience, knowledge and expertise necessary to get both cows and calves off to a healthy and profitable calving season.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FEEDER ASSOCIATIONS

A total of 1,288,143 cattle and 573,232 lambs have been fed through Alberta feeder associations since the Feeder Association Guarantee Act was passed in 1939. During the same period more than $216 million has been spent by local feeder associations to purchase livestock for their members to feed.

Herb Lock, Alberta Agriculture feeder association supervisor reports that the foot and mouth disaster of 1952 and subsequent disastrously low cattle prices resulted in the demise of a few of the province's feeder associations, but cost the provincial treasury less than $30,000 in loan repayments. The boom or bust cattle cycle of the early 1970s led to the demise of seven more associations whose members found themselves unable to repay their loans.

There are now 39 feeder associations operating in Alberta which represent 1,200 members. These associations will be using $16,000,000 worth of credit to enable their members to feed approximately 80,000 head of cattle and 2,500 lambs in 1978.

Further information on the feeder association in your area can be obtained from your local district agriculturist or regional livestock supervisor.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER

by Nadine Vester
Alberta Agriculture Family Living Specialist

Is your teenager driving you wild? Do you sometimes think you have a changeling in your house? Could this nineteen-year-old "know-it-all" possibly be the same little boy who was always quoting "my Dad" only ten short years ago? Yes? No? Confused? Take heart, you have company.

Dr. Lee Salk in his book "How To Raise A Human Being" says, "If being a teenager is hard, being a parent of one can be harrowing. A hostile stranger often seems to have taken the place of your child, and wherever he comes from, he makes no bones about his contempt for your basic life values as well as for what you served for dinner last night." Does that sound like anyone you know? One mother was heard to mutter dire threats against her large son. He had expressed contempt for her taste in music, wine, and choice of occupation, and then asked to have her car for the rest of the day!

The "teen" years are years of turbulence. Some psychologists, like Dr. Salk, believe that emotional turmoil, hostility, and family conflicts are inevitable for adolescents.

First, we usually have spurts of physical growth. Then because it takes time to adjust to this new size and self-image, we have an accompanying lack of co-ordination and self-consciousness. Second, we have greater hormone activity which inevitably brings about an emotional upheaval. In addition to budding curves or emerging beards, children have an excess of embarrassing perspiration and an increase in body hair. They may have acne ("zits"), which should be taken seriously because it can leave scars. Boys may have unreliable voices, and both boys and girls may have unpredictable surges in feelings.

At times teen-aged children are particularly frustrating because we know they are able to argue logically about the world. In fact, they can argue endlessly. They do not act logically some of the time because of their physiological state and because one of the tasks they

- (cont'd) -

must accomplish by the end of the teen stage is to become independent of their parents. In this task, the support of their peers becomes all important.

While the child is trying to be "different", he will very likely look like he is wearing his group's uniform. Today jeans must drag on the ground and everything must look unpressed. A generation ago, we wore ponytails, bobby sox, saddle oxfords, well-greased ducktails, fringed suede jackets, and balloon drapes that had to have zippers at the ankle to let your foot through! Even at today's prices, jeans are cheaper than those charcoal "drapes"!

A teenager needs to enhance his self-esteem by having successful experiences and by doing useful work that matters to his world (Dr. John Mitchell: "The Adolescent Predicament," U. of A., 1975). This is difficult today because our children stay in school longer and are therefore financially dependent on their parents. Children on farms whose labor is necessary can feel they are important and useful, but it is difficult to give household chores the same significance in the city. A part-time job is of some help. One girl who babysits children who really like her takes her job so seriously that she wants to take classes in child rearing just for these children. She knows she is important to them.

But, you say, some books say conflict is unnecessary if I am "talking right" to my kids! Those books say everything should be negotiable. A lot of hassles are, but if your fourteen-year-old daughter wants to go to a notorious disco because her friends are calling her "chicken", and you are worried about her safety, is that situation truly negotiable? Or does she really want you to protect her by saying "no"! If you say no, then she can say "my mean father won't let me," and she will not have to admit to her friends her good sense told her not to go. Some books will say that is protecting her from learning to make her own decisions, but is that not expecting too much of a child already in great turmoil?

Parents are constantly balancing on that thin edge of when to let their children make their own mistakes. Perhaps the only guideline is "how serious are the consequences? Am I

- (cont'd) -

Understanding Your Teenager (cont'd)

willing to have my child suffer them?" Dr. Salk says the only advice he can give is "be yourself" and that means, in part, don't be a patsy. Peace at any price is too expensive. Yelling and door slamming happen in most households.

Think of your adolescent's struggle for independence in the same terms as a person learning to ride a bicycle. Until experience is gained and balance is achieved, there is a lot of wobbling back and forth and the occasional crash and scraped knee. Few of us learned to ride bicycles without a struggle and bruises, and few of us left home without buffeting and getting and giving a few scars.

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February 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BATHING YOUR HOUSE PLANT

Do you wash the leaves of your house plants?

Alberta Agriculture horticultural specialist, Chris Campbell, says it is a good idea to wash the leaves of house plants periodically, but not those with hairy leaves like African violets, because many indoor plants retain the same leaves for several years. These leaves, like everything else in the house, collect dust. In the case of plants the dust cuts down the amount of light that can penetrate their leaves thereby reducing the light energy they absorb.

You can use various commercial products that will make the leaves of your house plant shine, but they can damage the leaves and are difficult to apply uniformly. These coatings also cut down the amount of light which can enter the leaf because the shine reflects light instead of absorbing it.

Ms. Campbell suggests washing the leaves of house plants with a warm (25° C), weak, non-detergent soap solution. "Gently wipe the leaves with a soft cloth or sponge, and be sure to rinse the leaves well to remove all the soap," she adds. If the leaves are small, you can swish them around in the solution instead of wiping them.

The above procedure will bring out the natural lustre of the waxes on plant leaves and increase the penetration of light into the leaves, even when the plants are in a relatively dark area of the room.

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AGRI·NEWS

CANADIANA
MAR 29 1978

March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOORE ELABORATES ON HOG PRODUCER PLEBISCITE

In a recent interview, Alberta Minister of Agriculture Marvin Moore elaborated on statements made in late January concerning a possible plebiscite among Alberta hog producers

In a letter on January 19, 1978 to Stan Price, chairman of the Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board, Mr. Moore wrote:

> I am hopeful that the joint committee (of the Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board and Alberta Agriculture staff) working with my office and the packing industry, can resolve this situation (the relatively low prices hog producers have been receiving).
>
> In the event we are unsuccessful, certain action should be taken now.
>
> As I indicated in my November 9, 1977 remarks in the Legislature, withholding action should not be taken without full support of producers by way of plebiscite.
>
> Your Board should consider asking the Alberta Agriculture Products Marketing Council to undertake a plebiscite among producers to determine producer support in this matter.

Mr. Moore's remarks in the letter left the Hog Marketing Board, producers and the packing industry wondering if he was advocating an immediate producer plebiscite on the 'withholding situation'.

But in the interview the minister indicated he is not asking the Products Marketing Council to hold an immediate plebiscite among hog growers, unless the Hog Marketing Board is considering withholding hogs from market, similar to the situation that occurred last August.

Mr. Moore emphasized that a plebiscite on withholding should only be considered

- (cont'd) -

Moore Elaborates on Hog Producer Plebiscite (cont'd)

if the Hog Marketing Board in fact plans to withhold hogs. In that case, a producer plebiscite should be held to approve a 'withholding action' before the fact, rather than to condone it after the fact.

Mr. Moore further defined the situation by detailing what he considers 'withholding action'.

"I don't mean withholding hogs for one or two days to even out the flow of hogs during the course of a week, but rather the type of withholding which (the Board) was contemplating (last August) which would have seen hogs staying on the farm for perhaps several weeks.

"To me the withholding action indicated a mandate the Hog Producers Marketing Board didn't have when it was formed in 1969. Withholding is a form of quota, and before setting such a quota, the Board has to have a plebiscite among producers."

The plebiscite may never have to be held said the minister. "It's entirely up to the Hog Producers Marketing Board whether they want to ask the Marketing Council to have that plebiscite, but I felt that it was important for me to tell the Board our view was that a plebiscite should be conducted if they were contemplating a withholding action."

"If, on the other hand, the Board is able to sit down with various segments of industry and work out the pricing problem as they've done in other provinces, most notably Ontario, then of course, such a plebiscite would not be necessary," concluded Mr. Moore.

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March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE EXTENDED

Alberta Agriculture Minister Marvin E. Moore has announced the deadline for application of the Feed Freight Assistance Program in the drought areas of Alberta will be extended beyond its February 28, 1978 termination date.

The joint federal-provincial program was originally announced in December as a measure to help defray forage transportation costs for livestock producers operating in parts of the province affected by drought in 1977.

The program was designed to provide assistance up to $15 per ton to a maximum of $2,000 per operator for forage which had to be transportated from outside a 50-mile radius of the designated drought area.

Extending the deadline for application of the Feed Freight Assistance Program should significantly assist individuals having difficulty in obtaining trucking to move forage said the Minister.

Negotiations are currently underway with the Federal Department of Agriculture to determine the exact length of the extension. However, it can be assumed the program will be extended for a minumum of one month.

Individuals with questions concerning the Feed Freight Assistance Program should contact their local district agriculturist or the local office of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

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March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA GRAIN COMMISSION UPDATES PHONE-IN SERVICE

The Alberta Grain Commission will implement a new grain-price phone-in service on March 13, 1978.

The existing Zenith number (ZE22075) will remain in operation until the end of the month. It will act as an auxiliary system in case of initial problems with the new service, and will then be dropped.

According to Alberta Grain Commission executive assistant George Davison the many benefits of the new system make it superior to the one in current use. "The Zenith system wasn't always reliable, and breakdowns often took from 2 to 3 days to repair," he said.

The new system is cheaper, reducing both equipment rental and toll charges, and can be completely updated in six minutes compared to 80 minutes for the Zenith network.

The tape message in the new system can also accommodate six minutes of information instead of three in the old. "We still intend keeping the message brief," says Davison, "but when there's a sudden influx of pertinent news, such as Canadian Wheat Board final payments, we can accommodate the extra information."

The new service is centralized in Edmonton allowing the same information to be transmitted across the province. Under the present system northern Alberta gets Chicago closings for soybeans, soybean products, wheat and corn. Southern Alberta does not. The new system will allow Alberta farmers to compare any feed mill prices between Peace River and Lethbridge.

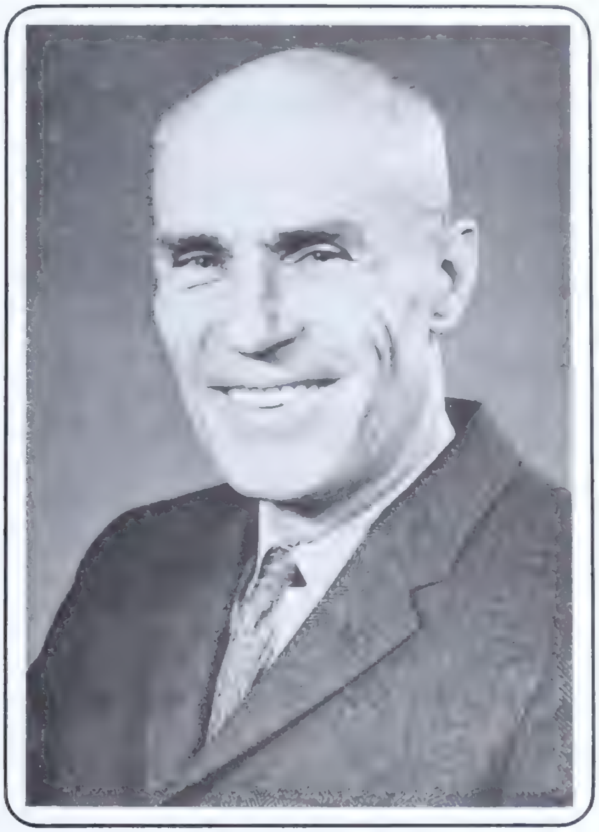
The new service has other advantages for the farmer adds Davison. Producers will now be able to direct-dial instead of using a long-distance operator, and incoming calls will be less likely to meet a 'busy signal' since the tape machines will now be connected by rotary switching equipment.

The new system opens for public use beginning March 13. The telephone number will be 1-800-222-6414.

March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACK KERNS RECEIVES LIFE MEMBERSHIP



J. L. (Jack) Kerns, long-time employee of Alberta Agriculture and well-known agriculturist in the province, received an honorary lifetime membership in the Canadian Society of Rural Extension (CSRE) at a recent meeting of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (Edmonton Branch).

Mr. Kerns had 38 years of service to Alberta's agriculture industry when he retired in 1974. He held many different positions with Alberta Agriculture including district agriculturist, beef cattle supervisor, and most recently, head of the provincial horse industry branch.

Dr. Alf Peterson, chairman of the rural economy department at the University of Alberta, presented the life membership award to Mr. Kerns on behalf of the CSRE.

March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE WEED FAIRS OPENING IN MARCH

Where does a modern weed control program fit into today's scene of low grain prices and high input costs?

Alberta Agriculture, in association with the British Columbia Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association, will attempt to answer the question with three one-day weed fairs in Alberta and B.C. during the last half of March.

Weed control is one of the fastest changing aspects of modern agriculture. It is also one of the least understood. One-day fairs have been developed to meet the situation by informing farmers of everyday weed control measures as well as the latest developments in weed control herbicides, equipment and techniques.

The opening one-day fair will be held March 21 at the Camrose Fairgrounds with the second fair following on March 23 at the Horticulture Research Centre in Brooks. The final fair will be held on March 28 in Dawson Creek, British Columbia at the Dawson Creek Fairgrounds.

The theme for this year's one-day fairs will be "The Dollars and Sense of Weed Control". Organizers hope to answer a fundamental question facing today's producer. With the price of grain going down and the price of machinery going up, how do you control weed control costs? Do you stop using herbicides, switch to lower cost herbicides, increase summerfallow or continue using the same methods you've always used?

The one-day fairs will feature more than 50 exhibitors and will attempt to cover almost every aspect of modern weed control. Seminars, films, demonstrations and lectures will all form part of the program. In particular, seminars will be short and will deal with specific topics such as new herbicides, sprayer calibration or wild oats control.

For more information on attending one of this year's weed fairs, producers should contact their local district agriculturist or fieldman.

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March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS OPEN

Alberta Agriculture Minister Marvin Moore has announced nominations are again welcomed for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Albertans who have made important contributions to the development of agriculture in the province or elsewhere in Canada, and who hold Canadian citizenship, are eligible for nomination.

"Recognition in the Agriculture Hall of Fame is the highest honor Alberta Agriculture can bestow on an individual," says Mr. Moore.

Nominations to the Hall of Fame will be accepted until June 15th. Nomination forms are available from district extension offices throughout the province, or from the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame, Extension Division, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2C8.

Supporting evidence of a nominee's contributions should accompany each entry, and those making nominations are asked to include a brief history of the nominee's life in Alberta.

Selection of men and women to be named to the Hall of Fame is made by a committee representing farmers, agricultural business, research, and government.

Since its foundation in 1951, the Hall of Fame has honored 39 men and women for their notable contributions to farming, ranching and the quality of rural life. Portraits and a description of their accomplishments are located at the permanent Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame display on the main floor of the Provincial Museum in Edmonton.

Service is the basic qualification for inclusion in the Hall of Fame; a life of dedication to the betterment of agriculture distinguishes each person chosen in past years. Professional or voluntary involvement in farming or rural life will be considered by the selection committee, if the nominee has made an outstanding contribution in his or her specialty.

- (cont'd) -

Hall of Fame Nominations Open (cont'd)

The committee will give preference to people associated with practical aspects of agriculture, including farmers and ranchers. Agricultural business people, professional agrologists and rural community workers will also be considered.

Men and women selected in 1978 to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame will be honored at a banquet and ceremony during Agriculture Week in the later part of October.

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March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF COWS REQUIRE PROPER NUTRITION AFTER CALVING

Beef cows not getting proper energy requirements after calving may suffer as much as a 50 per cent drop in conception rates, says Alberta Agriculture animal nutritionist Ruth Berg.

"After calving, beef cows should be fed on an increasing plane of nutrition, to allow them to recover from calving stress and to improve their condition for the new breeding season," added Ms. Berg.

As well as providing energy for the cow's immediate needs, adequate feed is also necessary to maintain a cow's milk production. Studies completed by the University of Alberta demonstrate that each one-pound increase in milk production will result in an extra 10 pounds weaning weight per calf. Yet, the extra milk given by the cow does not produce a significant increase in the incidence of calf scours.

As beef cows vary in both size and milk production potential, the feeding program for each herd should be considered individually. The following sample rations will give some guidelines to possible feeding programs that could be followed.

However, producers should also analyze feeds they will be using to ensure energy, protein and mineral requirements of the cows are actually being met.

- (cont'd) -

Beef Cows Require Proper Nutrition after Calving (cont'd)

		Feed Required (lb/day)	
		1000 lb Cow Average Milking Ability	1200 lb Cow Superior Milking Ability
Ration A:	Alfalfa Hay	22	31
Ration B:	Grass Hay	20	24
	Barley Grain	3	6
	32% Protein Supplement	-	1
Ration C:	Straw	15	15
	Alfalfa Hay	10	18
Ration D:	Straw	15	12
	Barley Grain	6	14
	32% Protein Supplement	2	3
Ration E:	Cereal Silage (65% Moisture)	57	62
	Barley Grain	-	4.5
	32% Protein Supplement	-	1.3

Cows will also need cobalt-iodized salt,
a 1:1 mineral supplement and 60,000 IU/day of vitamin A

For more information about feeding programs for cows after calving contact your local district agriculturist or the animal nutritionists at the Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2.

March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY SAVING IN THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

Agriculture, including the poultry industry, can do its share to conserve energy by using it wisely.

However, since agriculture uses less than 4 per cent of the energy used in Alberta, "it must be recognized that it cannot have a major impact on extending the availability of petroleum products, and in the short run, decisions to conserve energy will be motivated by the desire for cost reduction and improved net returns," said George Calver, associate director of Alberta Agriculture's farm development division in a speech to the recent Poultry Industry Conference held in Calgary.

Nevertheless, says Mr. Calver, some positive, energy-saving steps are available to the poultry industry. However, before any new plans can be implemented, it's necessary to first monitor energy usage. Using this as a base, practical energy-saving projects can then be developed.

For producers, partial house brooding systems can reduce space heating requirements as much as 13 per cent. Increasing insulation of broiler houses by raising the 'R factor' of walls to 10 and ceilings to 20 will return the capital investment in about three years. Choosing maximum efficiency fans is another step producers can take.

Paying closer attention to waterers to prevent leakage can save up to 10 gallons per day which translates to a saving of $110 per year with propane currently selling for 35¢ per gallon. Pelleting feed will saving energy and using brooder burners with low energy pilot lights will save even more.

Making minor electrical system changes can have definite cost benefits for the producer. Reviewing electric motor size to ensure one can handle present systems adequately without major over or under capacity can save maintenance, halt equipment failure and stop needless power consumption. Reducing lighting to minimum levels will save energy as will limiting ventilation to bare necessity. In all cases, adequate wiring is a wise investment to avoid short circuits and to reduce the risk of fire.

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Energy Saving in the Poultry Industry (cont'd)

Other energy saving measures may also interest producers says Mr. Calver. Raising broilers in cages, improved exhaust air-heat exchangers and making use of intermittent lighting are other items to consider.

Producers should also keep in mind new energy sources being marketed even though capital investment may be high.

Solar energy is one such system which could be a good investment says Mr. Calver. When petroleum prices are tripled in relation to today's capital cost of constructing solar collectors and heat storage units, it will prove to be a wise cost-cutting investment.

Poultry waste, which can be used as a biomass energy source, is another future energy supply. Although aesthetically unacceptable, poultry waste could and has been used as a feed source for poultry and animals. It could also be used as a feed stock for digesters for methane generation.

Recent research in setting up a digester for methane production in conjunction with a layer operation indicates it would be uneconomic at today's prices. For example, energy consumed for heating a 30,000-bird operation would be less than $2,000. Capital cost for a digester would be in the $40,000 to $50,000 range. However, if a digester were combined with a broiler operation, if energy prices do increase and if technological improvements lower costs, then using poultry waste as a biomass energy source might be economically feasible in the not too distant future.

For processors, Mr. Calver named other approaches to energy use which could be less costly and conserve existing nonrenewable energy supplies. Convenience poultry items, which some consider uneconomic for consumer use, might be net energy savers if household energy savings are considered.

In processing plants there are numerous ways to conserve energy. These include lowering office temperature in winter and allowing it to rise in summer. Shutting off unused

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Energy Saving in the Poultry Industry (cont'd)

lighting and establishing minimum lighting in seldom used areas are other energy savers. Insulating steam lines, maintaining boiler efficiency, adding capacitors to improve motor power factors and equipping hot water wash hoses with automatic shutoff controls are other possible sources of energy conservation. Routine transportation maintenance such as engine tune-ups and periodic checking of the tire pressure can also reduce energy costs in poultry and poultry product transportation.

There are many possibilities for the poultry producer and processor to save energy. Some require capital investment, others require just a little time and an increase in efficiency. All can be useful in saving money and conserving energy. They might not solve the energy use problem, but they would surely help; certainly not least, when they represent lower costs, they should be seriously considered by any person really interested in improving his net return.

March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT GRANT ANNOUNCED

In a joint release the Honourable Marcel Lessard, minister responsible for the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and the Honourable Marvin Moore, Alberta Minister of Agriculture, have announced a $132,329 development offer has been accepted by an Alberta family-operated alfalfa pelletizing plant.

The payment to Green Acres Alfalfa Farms Ltd. of Grimshaw, Alberta in the Peace River district will be made under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement which stipulates equal cost-sharing by DREE and Alberta Agriculture. The Agreement was created to assist eligible processing plants which establish, modernize and/or expand their facilities in rural Alberta communities.

Operation of the Grimshaw alfalfa pelletizing plant will be a family affair with seven members of the Henry Jonk Sr. family participating in the venture. The Grimshaw facility is expected to employ 20 people in full- and part-time positions including local farmers as well as Mr. Jonk and his sons Nick, Henry Jr., Peter, Dennis and daughters, Margaret and Marian.

The plant will obtain raw product locally and will have a capacity of 15,000 tons per year. Markets for the plant's product will include British Columbia and Alberta domestic markets including the Peace River district.

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March 6, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM INSURANCE

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist at Stettler

"How much and what kind of insurance do I need? How much will it cost? Is my present level of insurance coverage adequate? What changes need to be made?"

These are just a few questions that need to be expressed when a person contemplates taking out an insurance policy. As circumstances and conditions changes, it is a good idea to review your insurance, because what was adequate and suitable coverage a few years ago may not be relevant or adequate today.

Why Have Insurance At All?

The need to carry insurance of any kind results from risk --- the risk of injury to others and to their property; the risk or injury to yourself and to your property; the risk of crop failure and the risks of fire, accident and death. Although it is impossible to avoid risk, it can be shared. This is precisely what you are doing when you take out an insurance policy. You are essentially spreading or sharing the risk with the insurance company and are, therefore, buying protection.

There is no doubt farming is a very risky business. A farmer probably encounters more risks than most people because of the nature of his business. For instance, weather (drought, hail, flood, frost, snow, and wind) disease, insects and predators are just some of the risks he faces. In addition, the farmer shares risks common to other people such as fire, accident, sickness and death.

Determining Insurance Coverage

The type and amount of insurance coverage necessary will vary with the type and level of risk as well as with what is being insured. For example, if you are mainly a grain

- (cont'd) -

Farm Insurance (cont'd)

farmer with only a few head of feeder cattle and pigs, then crop insurance is the form of protection indicated. If you employ hired labor, either full-time or part-time, then some form of liability insurance is suggested. Consider the probability of certain hazards in your life. Ask yourself "How serious would a particular loss be if it happened to me?" Try to get coverage for the more serious risks and budget for smaller risks. Remember, the higher the risk the greater the need for insurance protection.

Financial position can also influence the need for protection. A farm business with a high degree of indebtedness and little equity is in a particularily vulnerable position. The question that arises is "How much risk can the business afford?" Insurance should be part of a total program to build financial security.

March 6 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE FOOD SCIENTIST APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's director of marketing services James Clarke has appointed Ms. Maeve Hennessy to the position of food research scientist with the food research group of the agricultural processing development branch.

Ms. Hennessy graduated from Leeds University, Yorkshire, United Kingdom in 1974 with a Master's degree in food science. Since graduation she has held positions in product development departments with companies in both the United Kingdom and Canada. Her most recent position was product development manager in the Grocery Products Division, Wm. Neilson Ltd., Toronto, Ontario.

In her new position Ms. Hennessy will work closely with Alberta food processors to maintain and increase the use, shelf life and consumer acceptance of processor products. She will also offer assistance in the areas of product formulation, improvement and development; product and package evaluation; and food quality and safety.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW GRADES FOR MALTING BARLEY WOULD IMPROVE SALES

The establishment of the Western Barley Growers Association could create a substantial, long term improvement in Alberta's agricultural economic base says Alberta Agriculture commodity commissioner Omar Broughton.

Specifically, Mr. Broughton says the unified voice the association gives growers in pushing for new malting barley grades could produce an additional $50 million dollars per year for the provincial economy by increased barley export sales. The association was officially inaugurated in Calgary March 2 after a year of start-up meetings around the province.

"We have given encouragement to barley producers to establish a voice for themselves," said the commodity commissioner. "It's in line with the government's objective to increase the province's economic base in agriculture. At the moment barley exports offer one of the best opportunities for increasing sales."

The potential market is large. Estimates place the annual international malting barley market at more than 10.8 million tonnes (500 million bushels). These estimates are derived from an annual use in industrialized nations of 3/4 of a bushel of malting barley per capita. That estimate may even be low. In Germany and France the per capita use is well over a bushel per person, while in Canada with a population of nearly 23 million, the annual market is close to 435,000 tonnes (20 million bushels) per year.

Most of Alberta's barley crop is used for feed with about 10 per cent filling current malting requirements. However, in any year, approximately 1/3 of the crop would qualify as malting barley, and if an expanded market were present, producers could raise that level to as much as 50 per cent with little extra effort and care.

"Earlier spring seeding and better care during harvesting would certainly produce a more uniform crop," said the commodity commissioner. "Three-quarters of our present crop is grown from malting quality varieties anyway."

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New Grades for Malting Barley would Improve Sales (cont'd)

Establishing grades for malting barley is the real problem. Unlike wheat where grades are established and quality known, barley must be sampled by the individual buyer to obtain the quality he wants. For domestic marketing the present sampling system has been adequate, and domestic buyers have had little reason to construct a new system since the present 'sample' method of grading has been economically sound and convenient for their own operations. Therefore, encouraging producers to form an association with a collective voice presented the most logical course for getting malting barley grades established, said Mr. Broughton, since producers would derive the most benefit from a new grading system.

The new association has already elicited considerable response from the Canadian Grain Commission which administers Canada's grain grading and inspection system. Having the Commission establish malting barley grades is considered the first step in expanding this export market.

In an address to the First Annual Convention of Western Barley Growers Association in Calgary, H. D. Pound, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission said, "Before there is any change...(in)... establishing malting barley grades, we would first want to get a public analysis of the idea with input from farmers and a broad section of the trade. Then the matter would be put to the Grain Standards Committee which includes a majority of farmers who examine and recommend any changes in relation to grade."

However, Mr. Pound went further. "I have gone on a long time (in this speech) about this matter of grading. My mind is open. If your organization (Western Barley Growers Association) wants an in-depth analysis of the question, submit your ideas to us and we will certainly look at them."

"The Western Barley Growers Association seems to have gained a quick recognition and response," said Mr. Broughton. "Certainly, its establishment was warranted. Who can speak

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New Grades for Malting Barley would Improve Sales (cont'd)

for producers better than producers themselves? The process of getting grades implemented may take a while, but in the end, I feel new grades would be of great benefit for both domestic and export markets.

"Certainly, it would fulfil our original aim of expanding our agricultural economic base."

March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING WARBLE CONTROL

by Ross Gould
Livestock Supervisor, Beef Cattle
Animal Industry Division

Fall warble control practices are employed by most Alberta stockmen. Unfortunately, many stockmen don't realize that a complete warble control program does not end with the fall treatment since the best fall program of systemic warble control can still leave some animals with a few grubs which will survive the winter. With this in mind, cattlemen should watch all cattle in the spring for signs of grubs and then treat any infested animals. This will ensure herds have the least chance of being re-infested during the summer.

Warble Losses

The warble fly continues to cost the Alberta cattle industry many dollars although the situation has improved over the last 10 years. In 1968 a survey showed nearly 50 per cent of the cattle slaughtered from February to June had signs of warble infestation. By 1977 this figure was reduced to just under 16 per cent. Yet, despite this improvement, it's estimated warble fly losses still amounted to more than $4.2 million last year.

Most good cattlemen in the province recognize the value of controlling these pests. Warbles are like weeds in many ways. They multiply quickly, and if steps are not taken to control them, they will increase to the point where they will rob the producer of many more dollars than control measures would ever cost. The typical owner of a small herd of 60 cows with another 100 steers on summer pasture could lose several thousand dollars from summer gadding, reduced feedlot performance, and devalued carcasses. These losses could be all but eliminated by an annual fall treatment with a systemic insecticide, at a probable cost of less than $150.

The Treatment

Systemic insecticides are just like any other product used to control insects or disease. However, they are rarely 100 % effective 100% of the time. Research results show that

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Spring Warble Control (cont'd)

properly applied systemics will kill from 95 to 98% of the grubs in a herd. Carelessly applied chemicals will kill a lot less than that! Knowing that systemics won't totally eliminate warbles explains why the good livestock manager will watch his cattle for signs of any fugitive warbles in the spring season, and take steps to kill them before they have a chance to mature into egg-laying flies to re-infest his herd.

Early Spring Systemics

Many systemic pesticides such as Roelene, Neguvon, Grubex and Epco Trichlorofon can be effectively used for early spring treatment of infested cattle. However, once grubs have become well established in warble lumps in the back, they are harder to kill with systemics. Recent tests conducted by Alberta Agriculture entomologists suggest systemics used between March 1 and April 15 will give good warble control.

Contacts

A contact insecticide, such as rotenone, can be scrubbed into the open warble holes or applied as a high pressure spray any time warbles are present in the animals' backs. Grubs mature into warbles at various times during the spring, so a contact insecticide application should be repeated about every three weeks as long as new grubs continue to appear. This type of treatment is especially important in dairy herds where milking cows cannot be treated with a systemic pesticide.

Two-Phase Control Pays

The easiest and most effective way to prevent losses caused by warble flies is to apply a systemic insecticide in the fall. To ensure that a minimum number of flies survive to re-infest the herd, the careful producer will follow the fall treatments with a systemic or contact insecticide in the spring on any grub infested animal. In a well managed herd the two-phase control program should eliminate nearly all losses caused by warble flies and produce more profits for the owner.

March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY TEST AVAILABLE

Spring is coming, farm operations are gearing up, and once again unfortunately, farm accidents will start to occur in greater frequency.

To prepare farmers for safe work during the new cropping season, Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Labour have developed a type of rate-yourself safety test which every farm operator and laborer can use to judge the safe or unsafe conditions of any farm.

The test, called the Farm Safety Scale, was originally developed for use by regional farm training specialists in evaluating training farms. It resulted from the Farm Accident Monitoring System which Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Labour implemented across the province in mid-1976.

However, the test has many more applications according to farm safety research co-ordinator Solomon Kyeremanteng. "The scale measures the conditions of major areas which we've found contribute to the majority of farm accidents in Alberta. In many cases these unsafe conditions still exist on the very farms where accidents occurred.

"I strongly believe the scale can be used to identify the general safety conditions of the average Alberta farm," added Mr. Kyeremanteng

The test measures safety conditions by two different methods: the Likert Scale, a numerical assessment of safe or unsafe conditions, and a simple 'yes' or 'no' scale. An explanation of why each question is included in the test is provided with the package.

"It's a test every operator should take," says Mr. Kyeremanteng. "He's also responsible for fixing any problem area the test might reveal. However, when you consider the time and money lost, pain caused and family anguish raised by even one farm injury, much less a death, a farm operator should be willing to at least judge his own operation to ensure safe working conditions."

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Farm Safety Test Available (cont'd)

Copies of the Farm Safety scale may be obtained by writing to Alberta Agriculture, Farm Safety Program, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. Copies of the scale will also be available in all district and regional agriculture offices beginning the first week of April.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4—H SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4—H division has announced that Mahlon Weir, 4—H supervisor of club projects, has been appointed 4—H supervisor of program services.

Born in Victoria, British Columbia, Mr. Weir is a long time Alberta resident. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1967 with a degree in agriculture specializing in genetics and nutrition, and joined the 4—H branch in September, 1967 as regional 4—H specialist at Grande Prairie.

In his new position Mr. Weir will remain located in the Agriculture Building in Edmonton, and will be responsible for supervising progress of various 4—H programs, production of the television program '4—H Clubtime', staff training and organizational development, and budget development as it relates to program services.

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March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE OFFERS RATION ADVISORY SERVICES

Efficient use of animal and feed resources will often make the difference between profit and loss in livestock operations says Alberta Agriculture animal nutritionist Ruth Berg.

The good livestock manager knows the importance of properly balanced feeding programs in livestock operations. "Without proper nutrition, animals will not perform to their potential and will make inefficient use of feed inputs," says Ms. Berg. "With the relatively thin profit line operators are now toeing, inefficient practice in any sector of livestock raising, particularly an important one like feeds, is something no producer should accept."

Before setting up proper feeding programs, a producer must first know the exact composition of the feeds he intends to use. Alberta Agriculture offers assistance to the province's livestock producers in this area as well as in developing effective and cost-competitive feeding programs.

The Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton will analyze grains, roughage and farm-mixed feeds to determine their exact nutrient content. An analysis for moisture, protein, calcium and phosphorous costs $2.00 per sample. Additional analyses for selenium and carotene will be completed for a small extra charge. Local district agriculturists can supply producers with a guide for taking feed samples as well as the necessary boxes and forms for making sample submissions.

Once the feed is analyzed, feeding programs can then be determined by adjusting the various amounts and combinations of different feeds needed to obtain the best livestock ration. After analysis feed supplements such as protein, minerals and vitamins can also be estimated according to the individual needs of the producer.

Again, Alberta Agriculture can offer help to Alberta stock raisers in this area. Local district agriculturists have forms which can be completed and submitted with feed samples at the

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Alberta
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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta Agriculture Offers Ration Advisory Services (cont'd)

time of analysis. These forms request such information as the size of inventories of feed and livestock, proposed rations, and expected rates of production and growth. Nutritionists from the animal industry division will then assess the rations for the particular operation and make recommendations for possible changes or additional supplements.

Local district agriculturists and regional livestock specialists located in Lethbridge, Airdrie, Red Deer, Barrhead, Vermilion and Fairview may also receive copies of feed analysis results and will assist in formulating rations.

"Planning livestock feeding programs before major feed purchases can be an effective cost measure," says Ms. Berg, "and regional livestock specialists and animal industry nutritionists can be of help. They have access to computerized ration formulation systems offered through CANFARM that will formulate rations to meet the requirements of particular operations at the least possible cost of feed inputs. Even if producers don't have direct access to regional specialists or animal nutritionists, they can work with them through local district agriculturists."

For further information about any of these services, contact your local district agriculturist or write to:

Ms. R. E. Berg
Animal Nutritionist
Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory
Box 8070
6906 — 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 4P2

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March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO CODE OR NOT TO CODE

by R. J. Chernecki
Alberta Agriculture Marketing Officer

The food retailing industry is about to undergo an electronic revolution.

This electronic revolution is expected to be ushered in by the Universal Product Code (UPC), a system of bar-marking each item carried in a supermarket so that, when coupled with scanning devices and in-store mini-computers, each item can be readily identified as to its manufacturer, brand name and size.

UPC's promoters first claimed bar-marking was neither a dating nor a pricing code, but technological advances have made it possible not only to include this information, but also to add inventory control and product ordering functions to the UPC system.

The consumer will first see the system in operation at the cash register where a special electronic, wand-like scanner will be passed over the bar markings to "read" the code. This information will then be transmitted to the store's mini-computer which, in turn, will search its memory and then return the correct price and product description to an electronic "cash register". The cash register will then print out a receipt which will include the price and identify the purchased product by name and package size.

People supporting the UPC stress its obvious advantages: reducing customer waiting time at check-out counters by up to 40 per cent; reducing check-out counter mistakes by up to 75 per cent; increasing employee productivity from 15 to 35 per cent; and, even increasing sales.

However, consumer action and labor union groups are less than impressed with the total system. They point out that labor cost reductions will come at the expense of the least costly labor force in supermarkets: those employees, usually students, who price-stamp a store's products. No figures have been given by UPC promoters or the supermarket industry to indicate

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the large number of supermarket employees who will be left unemployed when this system becomes fully operational.

The consumer groups have also suggested ways to improve present supermarket operations without resorting to new, high-priced technology. For instance, consumer advocates claim long line-ups at check-out counters can be reduced in a number of ways: by removing all general merchandise ("impulse" items, ranging from magazines, razor blades and chocolate bars to cigarettes) completely from the check-out area; by suspending cheque writing privileges altogether or, at least, by having it done somewhere else in the store; and by using staff more effectively during peak shopping hours.

Shoppers often feel frustrated when faced with long line-ups at three or four check-out counters while other check-out counters in the same store remain shut because they have no cashiers. Consumer advocates argue that by having the counters sufficiently manned and having cashiers concentrate on their task, customer waiting time would be reduced.

Incorrect price marking is a particularly sensitive issue. While food retailers claim errors will be virtually eliminated with the UPC system, consumer groups argue pricing errors will merely go unseen, not eliminated.

Consumer groups claim the food retailers' ready acceptance of the UPC is an open admission they make errors pricing their stock. Since consumers won't be able to decipher the price of any item that is bar-marked, they won't know how much they must pay for a particular item until they go through the check-out counter. Therefore, it will left to supermarket staff to indicate each product's price on stock shelves.

Consumer groups also claim since supermarkets already admit errors are made marking individual items, there is little guarantee there won't also be price-marking errors on shelves with the new system. Simply put, consumer groups are attempting to get the UPC proponents to build more safeguards into their system.

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To Code or not to Code (cont'd)

The Universal Product Code is an expensive system to implement. It will cost each store between $100,000 and $150,000 (U.S. prices, 1975) to purchase and install scanning and computer equipment. This does not include the cost of new packaging or the alteration of existing packages to accommodate UPC bar-marks. Some packages, either because they are unusually shaped or too small, will not be able to be converted to the new system. Therefore the new system must make some allowance to continue the present practice of cashier hand checking.

Consumer resistance and the high cost of conversion have reduced the original enthusiasm of food retailers to make a complete changeover to the Universal Product Code. Only two chains (in two stores in Montreal and one in Toronto) are using the new system. A few other supermarkets, including two in Calgary, are experimenting with the new computerized cash registers.

New consumer awareness and the defensive response retailers have taken to consumer concerns have certainly set back implementing the electronic revolution in supermarkets. It's now estimated the conversion to the UPC system is at least 10 years away, if and when the system can meet the growing demands of increasingly sophisticated consumers and food retailers.

March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT GIVES ALBERTA TELEVISED FARM INFORMATION

In serving Alberta's farm community, Alberta Agriculture taps every modern means of communication. FACT, the department's weekly 30-minute television program with topics of interest to farm, rural and urban viewers, provides a good example.

Started in 1970 as a daily 15-minute package on MEETA, Edmonton's educational cable television channel, FACT originally offered two agriculture, two consumer and one horticulture topic each week. The show was upgraded in 1975 to a weekly half-hour program to reach a wider audience with a broader treatment of current topics.

Today, FACT is a fast-paced show viewed by rural and urban Albertans on seven stations in the province. Sue Bard and Noel McNaughton co-host the program and add field research and on-camera interviews to their regular weekly stint in the studio.

Sue has a B.Sc. in Home Economics from the University of Alberta. Her background includes both extension and information work and she is one of the six co-ordinating hostesses chosen for Edmonton's 1978 Commonwealth Games.

Noel McNaughton has a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta and is an offshoot of an Alberta farm family. He joined the program after a varied work experience including jobs in broadcasting, adult education, river guiding and oil exploration.

FACT is produced in co-operation with ACCESS television North, a provincial corporation specializing in educational programming and the successor to the original MEETA educational network. ACCESS production staff and facilities all come into play in presenting the program each week.

Three or four topics generally make up the weekly information package, although occasionally an entire show is devoted to a story of major importance. FACT opened its 1977-78 season with a careful look at Grain Transportation and Handling in Western Canada, and the effect of the Hall and Snavely Commissions. Other programs aired this year include a look at Soil

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FACT Gives Alberta Televised Farm Information (cont'd)

Erosion, Winter Wheat, Acid Soils, Selecting a Light Horse and Non-Agricultural Land Use. Packaged for broadcast in the next few months are stories on rapeseed, retirement, garden rental, tomatoes and windmills.

FACT's information sources are almost exclusively the farming and farm business people of Alberta - - - livestock and field crop producers, scientists, implement designers and dealers, representatives of all levels of government, and specialists in related disciplines.

FACT is presented as a source of information and insight for Alberta's farming families, rural dwellers and city people with a taste for outdoor living. As the staff winds up its third season, it welcomes suggestions and responses to any of the 39 shows aired this year.

Planning for the 1978-79 season is now underway. According to co-hosts Sue and Noel, "Any ideas on agriculture, food products or rural living viewers would like to share with us would be really appreciated."

Anyone wishing to contribute suggestions, ideas or comments should write FACT, Box 3010, Station A, Edmonton.

FACT SCHEDULE FOR 1977 — 78 SEASON

Calgary	CBRT	Saturday 12 Noon
Edmonton	CBXT	Saturday 12 Noon
Lloydminster	CKSA-TV	Saturday 5:30 p.m.
	CITL-TV	Thursday 10:00 p.m.
Lethbridge	CJOC-TV	Sunday 12 Noon
Medcine Hat	CHAT-TV	Sunday 5:30 p.m.
Red Deer	CKRD-TV	Sunday 5:30 p.m.

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March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA COMMERCIAL STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION IS GROWING

Alberta's commercial strawberry production is in a state of rapid expansion. Prior to 1968 there were fewer than 30 acres in commercial production in the province, last year there were 90, approximately a 300 per cent increase within a decade.

Strawberry production is an enterprise where research, changing consumer habits and an expanding market have brought about a new approach in producer opinion and producer operations. From a supplemental cash crop in the mid-60s, strawberries have now become a full-time enterprise for many growers, an enterprise which requires intensive work on a small number of acres for only three or four months each year. The income is also attractive since recent estimates show a good producer can receive at least $1,000 net income from each acre in operation.

"Strawberries can be commercially grown in nearly all Alberta cropping centres," says Lloyd Hausher from Alberta Agriculture's Horticultural Research Centre at Brooks. However, he cautions that strawberries perform best when planted in light loam or sandy loam soils which are high in organic matter.

Strawberries have shallow roots, so they require a moist location, but standing water is harmful. "The best location," says Mr. Hausher, "would be well-drained and depression free with a north-east slope to reduce early frost injury and to shelter plants from prevailing winds."

Mr. Hausher says most commercial operators sell their produce on a pick-your-own basis. These operations have begun to gain a strong foothold. In the late '60s barely one acre per year was being added to the provincial total, but in 1971 commercial strawberry production entered a strong expansion phase and last year more than 20 new acres were added to commercial operations in the province.

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Alberta Commercial Strawberry Production is Growing (cont'd)

However, the market appears to be barely tapped. Horticultural researchers say the demand in Alberta alone could support a minimum of 1,500 acres of pick-your-own strawberries. Some estimates go as high as 3,000.

There are two major classes of strawberry. June-bearing strawberries, which are favored by Alberta growers, are simply those that produce one crop per year. Everbearing varieties form the other major class. These plants generally produce two crops annually.

'Protem' is the favored variety of most Alberta growers. The strain was developed by the Beaverlodge Research Station and is hardy enough for almost all Alberta growing areas. The plants bear continuously from late June until early August unlike the everbearing types which bear once in June, and don't bear again until fall.

Proper soil preparation and nutrition are important prerequisites before planting says Mr. Hausher. "When planting stock, only young, healthy runner plants should be used. It is very important when planting strawberries that they be covered only to the mid-point of the crown. Planting too deep or too shallow could kill the plants."

Weed control is probably the biggest problem of strawberry producers. A number of herbicides are registered and available, but there is still a large amount of hand labor involved in controlling weeds.

Mr. Hausher says a cost analysis of strawberry production in Alberta was prepared during 1977. Information was gathered from commercial strawberry producers and pilot project co-operators. The figures listed below represent only totals for each category.

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Alberta Commercial Strawberry Production is Growing (cont'd)

Estimated Annual Per Acre Costs of Producing and Marketing
Pick-Your-Own Strawberries in Alberta - 1977

Plant Cost ($600.00/acre — average 4 years)	$ 150.00/year
Planting Cost (transplanter & tractor rental, labor) (every 4 years)	27.00/year
Weed Control	
chemical (machines, labor, chemicals)	113.00
hand weeding (60 hr @ $3.50/hr)	210.00
*Selling (approximately 4 days/acre @ 8 hours)	112.00
*Management & supervision (same as above)	112.00
*Irrigation (pipe & pump, depreciation at 10 years, gas, etc.)	125.00
Labor in irrigating	50.00
Fertilizer	30.00
Miscellaneous costs (additional labor, land rental, etc.)	71.00
TOTAL COST	$1,000.00/acre

*Cost estimated on a farm of five or more acres.
If farm is smaller costs may be higher.

Many of the cost figures noted can be reduced depending on the amount of labor done by the producer, says Mr. Hausher.

Yields of commercial strawberries range from 2,000 to 7,000 pounds per acre, but the average yield for most areas in an average year is about 3,500 to 4,500 pounds per acre. The average selling price in 1977 on a pick-your-own basis was 50¢ per pound.

Individuals wishing to obtain more information about strawberry production or breakdown figures of the listed cost totals should contact Lloyd Hausher, Market Garden Specialist, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks.

March 13, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WOMEN ARE FINDING THEIR OWN WAY

by Janice Warren
Alberta Agriculture district home economist
at Stettler, Alberta

Have you ever wondered where the tools are for helping you to cope with twentieth century life? Yes? No? Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions?

What do I enjoy doing?
What makes me happy?
Am I a nicer person to the children when I have managed not to see them for a few hours?
What can I do to get out of the home for a few hours when I don't play bridge and don't want to learn macrame?
Why do I feel so irritated when my husband goes off to work and leaves me with two pre-schoolers?
Why do I feel depressed all the time?
What have I got to offer an employer after being a homesteader for 15 years?
What am I going to do when my husband retires and is around the house all day?

Virginia May wrote an article for 'Access Magazine' which tells women that we can find a way to help ourselves without having to be entertained all day by talk shows, gourmet cooking shows or soaps. The methods are brought out in a TV broadcast called 'Finding My Own Way' which is aired over station CFRN, Channel 8, each Wednesday morning from 10 to 10.30. The programs deal with ordinary questions like those I listed above -- questions which really do need factual answers, and which we can't always answer on our own.

The shows take week by week participation, and if you view them on a regular basis, you may find yourself gaining skills and reviewing attitudes which may help you decide how you can make life more satisfying for both yourself and your family. 'Finding My Own Way' hopes to provide a way to increase self awareness, find correct facts and information and gain knowledge about options and opportunities open to women.

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Alberta Women Are Finding Their Own Way (cont'd)

'Finding My Own Way' is based on a highly recommended educational counselling program, called 'Contemporary Women - Options and Opportunities', which was jointly sponsored by Continuing Education (Calgary) and the University of Calgary. The program has proven useful in helping women regain responsibility for their own lives and gain practical knowledge of where to turn for help if the need should arise.

Any woman living outside a major urban centre shouldn't miss this program -- it's an opportunity we don't often get. The program is definitely worth watching, and I would like to add that both Betty Birch and I would be happy to meet with small groups who wish to discuss some of the concerns that are covered by this series. By now you may have missed a few programs, but even catching just one could prove to be a mine of information that otherwise would be left untouched.

Following is the complete listing of 'Finding My Own Way':

Feb. 15 — I Am Me
Feb. 22 — Who Am I?
March 1 — Testing
March 8 — Communications
March 15 — Assertiveness
March 22 — Values and Lifestyle
March 29 — Parenting
April 5 — Taking Stock
April 12 — Social and Legal Problems
April 19 — Divorce and Grief
April 26 — Depression and Stress
May 3 — Alcoholism
May 10 — Financial Management
May 17 — Welfare
May 24 — Counselling
May 31 — Career as Mother
June 7 — Day Care

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
APR 1 0

March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXTENDED THREE MONTHS

Federal Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and Alberta Agriculture Minister Marvin Moore have announced a three-month extension to the joint federal-provincial Feed Freight Assistance Program.

The program is designed to provide assistance up to $15 per ton to a maximum of $2,000 per operator for forage which has to be transported from outside a 50-mile radius of the designated drought area.

Prior to the extension farmers had to purchase fodder before March 1 and complete program applications before April 1 to be eligible for assistance.

"With this extension all operators who purchase and transport eligible forage between July 1, 1977 and June 1, 1978 may receive assistance," said Mr. Whelan.

"Last summer drought forced livestock producers, particularly in southern Alberta, to bring in feed from outside areas. The problem was compounded when winter blizzards prevented the movement of feed to deficient areas," said Mr. Moore.

"As a result of the drought last summer, pastures will likely take longer to become re-established this spring," added Mr. Whelan. "This extension in forage transportation assistance will encourage farmers to keep their cattle off pastures early in the spring, giving the pastures a chance to recover."

Operators wishing to apply for Feed Freight assistance should contact their local district agriculturist or visit the local office of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

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March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAT CONTROL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

In a continuing attempt to maintain and improve rat control in the prairies, Alberta and Saskatchewan will hold a joint meeting in Rat Control in Lloydminster from April 11 to 13.

"The meeting is important to strengthening our program," says Cliff Barrett, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of pest control, "and is especially notable because of the interest being shown by several other provinces." British Columbia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories have all expressed an interest in attending.

The specific objective of the meeting is to review the rat control policies and programs in the two prairie provinces. But, says Mr. Barrett, if outside provinces attend, then the conference will also be afforded an opportunity to look at rat control in other areas of Canada.

Topics to be reviewed include pest control officer reports, bait and baiting techniques and current chemicals in use. The conference will also serve to inform staff about new control and inspection techniques and will act as a medium to exchange information.

"Alberta has maintained its rat-free status for 27 years, and we're getting the word out that our rat control program works," says Mr. Barrett.

"For the most part the province is a natural rat fortress on three sides, so we're really geared up to pick off rats that come in from the east," he added. The main control program is centred along a buffer zone 380 miles long, and 18 miles wide which runs along the Saskatchewan border from Cold Lake to the Montana border.

To the north, the Northwest Territories present few problems and to the west the Rockies effectively block rat movement, however the rodents can enter Alberta courtesy of transport trucks and rail cars. That doesn't happen often although pest control officers did catch a live rat in Edmonton about two months ago.

"Normally, they die en route," said Mr. Barrett.

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Rat Control Conference To Be Held (cont'd)

"To the south, the Dakotas and Montana have good programs," said the pest control supervisor. "There are natural barriers, and in Montana the farms are so far apart, the poor rat doesn't have much of a chance to spread."

Where there are infested areas in other provinces, Mr. Barrett said tough, new techniques are needed to combat the rat problem. " Good clean-up and grain storage systems would provide considerable support to rat control officers.

"Control is difficult once rats are entrenched. In Alberta, we have to vigilant. A pregnant female entering the province could spell real trouble. She only has to breed for a few generations, and you end up having — a rat control problem."

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March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING WARBLE INSPECTIONS AT MARKETS

The Alberta Warble Control Program will continue on-site inspections for warble infested cattle at all markets and terminal stockyards during 1978 says Alberta Agriculture's livestock supervisor Ross Gould.

Any infested cattle at markets being offered for sale will be treated for the pests unless they are to be sold for slaughter within seven days, are milking dairy cattle or are too young or sick to be treated.

The practice of inspecting and treating infested cattle at markets was started several years ago when Alberta counties and municipalities began passing their own warble control by-laws says Mr. Gould. Eighty per cent or more of the ratepayers had to request a warble control program by petition. The province adopted warble fly regulations through the Agricultural Pests Act, and in 1976 a uniform policy was established for all markets in the province.

All cattle offered for sale are inspected; and infested cattle returning to the farm are treated to kill the grubs and prevent re-infestation. The treatment is paid for by the cattleseller through a $2.00 per head deduction from the seller's proceeds for each animal treated.

"A few animals may retain one or two grubs even in herds which have been carefully treated in the fall," says Mr. Gould, "and we advise farmers to check their cattle several weeks before they intend to sell, and treat any that are infested. This will ensure grub-free cattle at the sale and avoid the cost of extra treatment at the market."

"Farmers should note that any animals treated with Neguvon, Grubex or Epco Trichlorofon can't be slaughtered for 21 days after treatment. Cattle treated with Spotton must be held for 45 days before slaughter. However, producers who use Ruelene for warble control can sell their cattle for slaughter seven days after they have been treated," says Mr. Gould.

March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO ALBERTA COMPANIES RECEIVE ASSISTANCE GRANTS

In two joint releases, the Honourable Marcel Lessard, minister responsible for the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and the Honourable Marvin Moore, Alberta Minister of Agriculture, have announced $16,771 in development assistance has been offered to two Alberta companies.

The payments will be made under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement which stipulates equal cost sharing by DREE and Alberta Agriculture. The Agreement was created to assist processing plants which establish, modernize and/or expand their facilities in rural Alberta communities.

The first grant of $5,940 is to be made to a new bakery being opened in Stettler, Alberta. Pak-Wel Produce Ltd. of Vauxhall, Alberta will receive the second grant for $10,731 to install an automatic baker potato sizing line.

The new bakery, to be located on Stettler's main street, will produce bread, pastries, cakes and donuts. Mr. Herzog would like to specialize in full-grain breads.

"It's much healthier for people than ordinary brown and white varieties," said the concerned baker.

Mr. Herzog first learned the bakery trade in his native Germany. After emigrating to Canada, he worked as a cook in mining camps before purchasing a bakery in Bashaw in 1976. It's estimated the new bakery will employ six people by the end of its third year in operation.

With the new equipment, Pak-Wel's capacity for sorting and packaging potatoes of uniform size and shape for hotels, restaurants and institutions will increase to 10 tons per hour. At present the company operates a hand-sizing line which limits output to three tons per hour and reduces its ability to maintain consistent potato size.

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Two Alberta Companies Receive Assistance Grants (cont'd)

Baking size potatoes sell for 25 to 35 per cent more than Canada No. 1 potatoes. The company estimates it can sell up to 4,000 tons of baking potatoes in the current fiscal year in addition to other sales of approximately 20,000 tons. About 70 per cent of Pak-Wel's baker potato output will be sold in Western Canada while the remainder will be shipped east or exported.

Although Pak-Wel's staff varies between 10 and 30 due to the seasonal potato supply, the company expects the new equipment will eventually allow it to add between four and eight people to its permanent staff.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A HISTORY OF CHEESE MANUFACTURING IN ALBERTA

Although there is no record of the first time cheese was made in Alberta, it was certainly after domestic cattle began filtering into the province from the Red River settlement in the 1820 s.

By 1840 Fort Edmonton had a good supply of cattle, but whether or not surplus milk was available to make cheese is not known. However, the Northwest Territories' census shows that cheese making was commonplace by 1885. It reports that there were 3,334 dairy cows in the provincial district of Alberta and that 1,075 pounds of cheese were made per year.

In 1885 the Canadian Pacific Railway's main line was completed and brought many people into southern Alberta as well as into the Calgary and Edmonton areas. Good sized dairy herds were established, and those early dairymen enjoyed a ready market for the surplus butter they produced. The price at that time was as high as 50 ¢ per pound.

However, in the late 1800 s milk production exceeded local demand, and there was a serious slump in prices. The situation was remedied by the establishment of dairy factories and the acquisition of wider markets.

Ebenezer Healy, a Springbank district dairyman, took the innovative step of setting up a cheese factory on his farm in 1888. This first dairy factory in Alberta was followed in 1889 by another on the Elbow Park Ranch. The ranch was owned by Isaac Robinson.

By 1900 other cheese plants had sprung up at Poplar Lake, St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, Vermilion Meadows, Spruce Coulee, Aetna, Tindastoll, Innisfail, Clearwater and Cardston. Since the scattered dairy herds of those days did not make cheese manufacturing economically viable, not all of these plants survived.

In 1906 seven Alberta factories produced 10,000 pounds of cheese annually. Today 11 plants produce close to 15 million pounds of cheese every year. The

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A History of Cheese Manufacturing In Alberta (cont'd)

quality of this cheese is excellent, and it consistently grades higher than the national average. Ninety per cent of Alberta cheese is graded, while the national average is only about 50 per cent. The 14 cheese varieties manufactured in Alberta range from Brick and Camosun to Quark and Ricotta.

A pamphlet entitled "Alberta Cheese" has been compiled by the Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture to help people select, prepare and store cheese. It also contains a reference guide to all the varieties of cheese that are produced in Alberta.

"Alberta Cheese" is available from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton T5K 2C8.

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March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISPOSING OF MANURE IN THE SOIL

Research carried out at the federal research station at Lethbridge shows that manure can be applied to the soil at two or three times the recommended rate without danger of crop toxicity or pollution, but that soil moisture in an important factor in determining how much manure can be used without adversely affecting plant growth.

Application rates used at the research station since 1973 have been 0, 13, 27, and 40 tons per acre on nonirrigated land and 0, 27, 54 and 80 tons per acre on irrigated land. The manure was applied and incorporated into the soil in the fall. The following spring the soil was tilled again, and seeded to Galt barley.

The barley responded favorably to all applications in the first year, but in 1975 and 1976 yields fluctuated because of variable moisture levels. It was found that as the rates of manure applied increased, moisture requirements also increased.

According to information received by Alberta Agriculture, the soil dried out excessively at germination time when the higher rates of manure were applied,and supplementary water was required to germinate the seed. During the growing season vegetative growth was rank and soil moisture use was high. When sufficient moisture was not maintained during the growing season, the plants became stressed during the period when the kernels were developing, with the result that the grain was underdeveloped and shrivelled. On the other hand, the germination was not affected when soil moisture was abundant. The kernels filled and the grain yield increased.

Manure at all rates increased the protein content of the grain, says the Lethbridge release, and the relative increase was greater where soil moisture was not limiting. The protein content was about the same when lower application rates of manure were used as when they were moderate or heavy. Relatively large increases in grain and straw yields were recorded when light applications of manure were used, but increases from additional manure were small.

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March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SHELF LIFE OF CANNED FOOD

How long can canned foods be safely stored?

According to Karen Graham, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Pincher Creek, commercial canned foods can be kept almost indefinitely if they are stored in a cool place. "The sealed cans," she says, "are heated during the canning process to destroy organisms that could cause spoilage." Canned acidic foods that are not stored in a cool place may react with the iron and tin in the can to cause an off-flavor, but this flavor does not indicate spoilage. Mrs. Graham says some of the vitamins in commercially canned foods will deteriorate if the cans are stored for a year or so in a relatively warm temperature. Canned fruits and vegetables, for example, can lose up to 10 per cent of their vitamin C content if they are stored for more than a year at 18° C. If the storage temperature is 26° C, the vitamin C loss can be as high as 25 per cent after a year.

Mrs. Graham says the type of food and its vitamin content will determine the net loss of nutrients that occurs when the cans are stored for a long period. "Some vitamins" she explains, "are more stable than others. Riboflavin (one of the B vitamins), for example, is not affected under normal storage temperatures."

Home canned foods can also be kept almost indefinitely, providing they were properly canned and are stored in a cool place. If they are not kept in a cool, dry place, the quality can deteriorate after the first year. To prevent the food from darkening, the jars should be kept in a dark storeroom wrapped in newspaper or stored in boxes.

"Before opening any canned product," says Mrs. Graham, "check the can for rust, punctures or bulges. Any leakage from the container or a bulge in a can indicates spoilage. If this type of damage is discovered, it is safer to discard the food."

Are canned goods safe after they have been frozen?

Mrs. Graham says there is no danger in using canned foods that have been frozen as long as there is no sign of leakage from the container after it has thawed. However the freezing may change the appearance and texture of the food. Some creamy foods

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The Shelf Life On Canned Food (cont'd)

may curdle or separate after they have been frozen, but their original consistency usually returns when they are heated. If, however, there is any sign that the container has leaked or if there is a bulge in the cans, do not take a chance on eating the food.

March 20, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSUMER POINTERS

Manage your money; do not let it manage you!

Betty Birch, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Stettler, passes along the following pointers from the Consumer Affairs Branch of Alberta to help you to become a better informed consumer and thereby keep your buying problems to a minimum.

- Establish your budget goals and live within your income.
- Take your time to decide on your purchase.
- Shop around for best values, but remember you do not get something for nothing.
- Look at guarantees and warranties before buying.
- Do not engage in impulse buying. Over-involvement with credit through impulse buying may jeopardize your financial future.
- Use common sense when buying. Do not be misled by frills.
- Use credit wisely. Although credit costs money, it can save money in the long run when wisely used.
- Investigate the seller's reputation. The product is only as good as the man who stands behind it.
- Put any transaction in writing so that you have a permanent record.
- Document and date your business transactions to provide an accurate record of what went on.
- Never sign anything in blank. Always read the entire contract, understand all the details and agree with every term and condition; otherwise do not sign.
- Keep your deposit small to avoid unnecessary loss if you encounter problems before delivery.
- Protect your own interests. No one else will.

Remember that:

- Extra features cost money and may result in additional upkeep costs.
- Hard sell tactics usually indicate poor quality. A good product will sell itself.
- Quality costs money, but spending a large sum of money does not necessarily buy quality.

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Consumer Pointers (cont'd)

- Offers which appear to be unbelievable or too good to be true usually are!
- Verbal arrangements, although binding, are difficult to enforce.
- Swindlers exist, but you do not need to be the sucker.

You can protect yourself from being the victim of poor buying habits if you try. Aim for zero buying problems through becoming a well informed consumer.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
APR 12 1978

March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Grande Prairie Feedmill Receives Nutritive Processing Assistance 2

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FARM FUEL ALLOWANCE WILL BE CREDITED AT PUMP

Alberta Agriculture Minister Marvin Moore announced in a statement to the provincial Legislature that the recent increase in the Farm Fuel Transportation Allowance will be credited to producers at the time of purchase rather than after they have filed a rebate application form.

The increase in the allowance was announced by Provincial Treasurer Merv Leitch in his budget address to the Legislature on March 17 and will reduce the present cost of purple diesel fuel and purple gasoline by 4 cents per gallon.

According to a March 20 release on farm input prices by Alberta Agriculture, the average prices for purple diesel fuel and purple gasoline are about 53 and 56 cents per gallon respectively.

"The federal government levies a 10 cent-per-gallon excise tax on gasoline which is refundable on application by farmers and commercial users," said Mr. Moore. "This system, while having the advantage of selective control over the use of fuel, has a number of disadvantages for our citizens.

"Additional government employees would be required to administer the system. Farmers would be required to maintain receipts and to submit applications for refunds, and, of course, there would be a major disadvantage in the additional operating capital required by the individual.

"For these reasons we have opted to deduct the 4 cents at the time of purchase rather than return it to producers after a rebate application." Farmers will, of course still be required to demonstrate their eligibility for this allowance."

The Minister also noted that, on the average, Alberta farm fuel costs will be 13 cents per gallon lower than those in any other province in Canada.

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Alberta
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Phone (403) 427-2127

March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANDE PRAIRIE FEEDMILL RECEIVES NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Northland Feed and Farm Supplies Ltd. of Grande Prairie has received a $10,995 grant under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement. The grant to this family-owned and operated feedmill was announced by Marcel Lessard, federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

Northland Feed and Farm Supplies Ltd. is a major feed producer in the Peace River area, which sells to retail outlets and directly to the consumer. The grant is being used to improve the feedmill's efficiency and to increase its bagged and bulk storage facilities. Increased feed sales in both Alberta and British Columbia and the development of export sales have made this modernization and expansion necessary.

Ben Jones, the president and general manager of the company, founded the family business in 1974. Since that time he has held the company's sales volume steady in spite of market fluctuations by diversifying his products and expanding his sales area into British Columbia.

The nutritive processing grant is based on 16 per cent of total eligible capital costs and working capital, estimated in this case at $68,716. Cost-shared equally by DREE and Alberta Agriculture, the grants are designed to help food processing plants which locate or expand their facilities in rural Alberta.

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March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CATTLEMEN FACE NEW BRUCELLOSIS REGULATIONS

New federal regulations designed to eradicate brucellosis from Canadian cattle herds shouldn't raise too many problems for Alberta cattlemen when they come into effect April 1, says Dr. H. N. Vance, director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division.

"I really don't think it's going to be difficult for Albertans to live with the new regulations as long as we can stay with the relatively low infection rate we now have and can keep our designation as a low infection region," said Dr. Vance.

Under the new regulations each province is classified in one of three categories depending on the incidence of brucellosis in that province. The categories are brucellosis-free, low-incidence and 'other.' Initial classifications will place Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in the brucellosis-free category; Alberta, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia in the low-incidence class, and Ontario and Quebec in the 'other' category.

The new regulations, first announced last November, place tight controls on cattle sales and movements in Ontario and Quebec and form part of a major Agriculture Canada campaign to eliminate the contagious, bacterial brucellosis disease which causes cows to abort and farmers to lose production.

In an area of high brucellosis incidence — such as Ontario and Quebec — most cattle will require testing prior to movement to another farm, a public sale, auction or market, and to shows or exhibitions within the area. Exempt from the testing will be cattle from herds listed brucellosis-free, dairy cattle less than 18 months old, beef cattle less than two years old, cattle for immediate slaughter, steers and spayed heifers.

The new regulations are also designed to govern cattle movement from a high-infection region to a low-infection area. Cattle moving from a nondesignated area to a brucellosis free or low-incidence region and cattle moving from a low-incidence area to a brucellosis-free region will all require blood tests prior to movement to ensure they don't carry the disease and infect healthy animals.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Cattlemen Face New Brucellosis Regulations (cont'd)

"I don't think there will be any real problem for Alberta producers buying and selling cattle and moving them from area to area so long as they first check with the local Health of Animals veterinarian and find out what the requirements are," says Alberta's chief veterinarian.

"Of course, the basic problem with brucellosis is that people have not been testing herd additions. If they were tested and heifers particularly were quarantined until they had calved we really wouldn't have a brucellosis problem."

"In Alberta things are looking quite good compared to a couple of years ago," says Dr. Vance. "In 1976 we had 90 herds under quarantine for brucellosis. At that time most of the infection was concentrated in the northeast part of the province adjacent to Saskatchewan which was also having quite a serious problem.

"The centre of infection has now shifted. We're down to 33 quarantine herds and there is probably more infection in the south than anywhere else in the province. The Saskatchewan situation has been much improved and that's helped Alberta quite a bit."

Alberta is still designated as a low-infection area and the new regulations will require Alberta cattlemen do some additional testing particularly on cattle attending shows and animals being shipped to a brucellosis-free area.

"To help improve our own position, Alberta cattlemen should demand an immediate brucellosis test on any cattle they purchase. They may have problems getting cattle into the province depending where they buy animals, particularly from Ontario and Quebec which have been sore spots, and they could have to wait several months before cattle can be transported from those areas," said Dr. Vance.

"If enough cattlemen in those provinces would go onto the brucellosis-free listed herd program then movement will be eased between Ontario and Quebec and the other provinces. But until that time, it's going to be very hard to get cattle out of there and that's particularly significant for anyone in Alberta who's looking for dairy cattle replacements."

March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RECLAMATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOILS AFTER OIL SPILLS

Information obtained from a recently completed co-operative research project on procedures that can be used to reclaim soils contaminated by oil spills should be of particular interest to Alberta farmers in districts where oil spills have caused valuable crop land to remain unproductive for many years. It appears that such soils can be rapidly reclaimed by simple procedures and at a minimal cost.

The joint research project, which involved the oil industry, Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta's department of soil science, was started in 1973. According to Dr. J. A. Toogood of the University of Alberta, part of the project involved treating two fields on black soils with light, medium and heavy rates of oil. He reports that as a result of laboratory and field experiments, the soil which received the light oil treatment produced a barley crop the year after the oil had been applied. The soil which received a heavy treatment of oil was brought back to normal production in four years time.

Dr. Toogood reports that the experimental results showed that the reclamation of soil contaminated by oil is done by micro-organisms. The two major problems that develop when oil is spilled on soil are an extreme nitrogen deficiency which occurs as a result of a rapid build-up of micro-organisms which attack the oil and decompose it; and a severe moisture deficiency which occurs in the surface soil because of the oil slick coating around the soil particles.

"The speed of reclamation", says Dr. Toogood, "is directly proportionate to the micro-organism activity. Conditions which favor this activity are an adequate supply of plant nutrients, particularly nitrogen, and optimum soil moisture, aeration and temperature." High initial fertilizer rates and frequent cultivation were found to be essential for maintaining favorable conditions for micro-organism activity.

Dr. Toogood believes the reason the problem of oil spills on soils has received much less attention in the past than the problem of oil spills on water is that oil spills on water are

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potentially more mobile, and can, therefore, affect large areas and more people. In Alberta, however, the volume of oil spilled on soil far exceeds that spilled on water, and the damage is much longer lasting. At the present time most of the approximately 69,000 barrels of oil that are spilled each year is on soil, and most of the spills result from pipeline failures.

Alberta farmers who want to reclaim soil that has been affected by an oil spill should contact their local district agriculturist. Anyone who would like a copy of the results obtained from the research project or the detailed reclamation procedures can obtain it from Dr. J. A. Toogood, Department of Soil Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E3.

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March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAGNETIC SEED TREATMENT

Although we have not heard much lately about the benefits of magnetic seed treatment, the situation has not changed, according to Art Tilma, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Thorhild.

He reports that in some cases there has been a yield increase, while in others there has not been a yield increase. "We can never predict what the results will be", he says.

Following is a summary of results obtained from 1972 to 1976 by Urban Pittman of the federal research station at Lethbridge who has done a lot of work in this area since 1972.

Crop	No. of Tests	Result
Galt Barley	21	Yield increase
Galt Barley	5	No difference
Galt Barley	2	Yield decrease
Betz Barley	4	Yield increase
Neepawa Wheat	13	Yield increase
Neepawa Wheat	7	No difference
Glenlea Wheat	6	Yield increase
Glenlea Wheat	3	No difference
Sundance Winter Wheat	3	Yield increase
Sundance Winter Wheat	1	No difference
Sioux Oats	1	Yield increase
Sioux Oats	4	No difference
Harmon Oats	1	Yield increase
Cougar Fall Rye	2	No difference
Span Rapeseed	1	Yield increase
Span Rapeseed	1	No difference
Akerperle Fababeans	1	No difference

The range of yield increases for barley and wheat was 5 to 8 per cent. The tests also showed that some crop species and varieties do not respond to magnetic treatment, and that soil moisture has an effect on response. It also appears that more positive results have been obtained in southern Alberta than in other parts of the province.

Mr. Tilma says British researchers have had a 5 to 7 per cent yield increase with barley during a one year trial.

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Magnetic Seed Treatment (cont'd)

Anybody who would like more information on magnetic seed treatment should contact Urban Pittman, Federal Research Station, Lethbridge, T1J 4C7.

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March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION REGULATIONS

A person who wants to artificially inseminate his own animals does not have to have a licence, but he must have a licence and be working for a licenced inseminating business if he wants to inseminate somebody else's animals.

According to Dr. John Taylor, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of artificial insemination, there are certain other requirements that must be met under the Artificial Insemination Act before a licence will be issued. He points out that the fine for violating this act varies from $25 to $250, depending upon the nature of the offence.

Further information on Alberta's artificial insemination regulations can be obtained from Dr. John Taylor, Supervisor of Artificial Insemination, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECORD NUMBER OF BARROWS ENTERED IN ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS

Swine producers are showing an unprecedented interest in the Alberta Pork Congress, held every year at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds in June. The 1978 congress will be held on June 20, 21, and 22.

Thirty-eight swine breeders have entered 76 barrows in the carcass class of the 1978 congress, and 23 groups of three barrows have been entered in the group class. These 145 entries compare with 106 in the 1977 congress, 65 in the 1976 congress and 120 in the 1975 congress, which had groups of five animals.

Breeding stock entries are due on April 29. If the interest shown in the barrow classes is any indication, the 1978 swine show will be the largest to date.

Support for the Alberta Pork Congress comes from the Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board, the Alberta Swine Breeders Association, the Meat Packers Council, Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture. Revenue is also generated through swine entry fees, industrial display entry fees, advertising and a number of grants and donations.

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March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWINE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION COURSES SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

Two swine artificial insemination (AI) short courses are being sponsored by the Alberta Pork Industry Branch in April. The first will be held at the Whoop-Up-Days Centre at the exhibition grounds in Lethbridge on April 6 and 7, and the other will be held at Olds College in Olds on April 27 and 28.

Response from hogmen who attended the pork industry branch's first swine AI course at Olds College in March stressed the need for more courses. Sam Harbison, supervisor of swine breeding with Alberta Agriculture, reports that an evaluation of the Olds course revealed the need for a practical course setting which would include classrooms and a practice herd.

The primary emphasis of the course was in helping hog producers who will be artificially breeding pigs to appreciate the care which must be exercised to preserve the fertility of fresh boar semen for up to five days after it has been collected, to detect the correct stage of heat in the sows and to use techniques that would give them the best reproductive performance from their sows.

Course instructors included Wallace Orr, a swine breeder from Fort Macleod who is successfully using frozen boar semen from the Ontario Swine Artificial Insemination Association, Murray Gratz, instructor for artificial insemination at the Olds College; Dr. Kay Henderson, reproductive physiologist with Alberta Agriculture, and Chris Evans and Sam Harbison of the Alberta Swine Breeding Centre at Leduc.

Mr. Harbison says more swine AI courses will be scheduled in various parts of the province as they are required. Further information on the April 6 and 7 course in Lethbridge, and registration forms, can be obtained from Dr. J. P. McKinnon, Regional Swine Specialist, Agriculture Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7 (Telephone 329-5108). Anyone who would like information about the April 27 and 28 course at Olds College should contact the Alberta Swine Breeding Centre, R. R. 2, Leduc, Alberta, T9E 2X2 (Telephone 986-1250).

March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTER LILIES

If you received or bought yourself an Easter lily and would like to have it flower again this year, here is what you should do, according to Alberta Agriculture's horticultural specialist, Chris Campbell.

An Easter lily that is put in a moderate light, kept at a temperature of between 18° and 21° C and watered thoroughly everyday will usually last for several weeks. After it has finished flowering, cut off the blooms, water it and fertilize it about every three weeks. When all danger of frost is over, you can put it in a sheltered place in your garden. Continue to water and fertilize it in the garden until about mid-August when you should bring it back into the house to avoid the first fall frost. It should start to flower about the end of September.

If you would like to grow your own lilies for next Easter, you should plant new bulbs (available from any florist) in October or the beginning of November. Since the normal blooming period for Easter lilies is July and August, they have to be forced to bloom in March or April. A high temperature hastens blooming while a lower temperature retards it.

Ms. Campbell recommends planting Easter lily bulbs in a 12 to 15 cm pot, depending upon the size of the bulb. The soil should consist of two parts loam, one part sand and one part peat moss or vermiculite. Barely cover the bulb with soil and water it just enough to moisten the soil. Then put it in a temperature of 16° C. If you keep your plant at this temperature, it will usually come into flower five to eight weeks after the first buds break. However, this period can vary slightly, depending upon the storage treatment the bulbs received before they were bought.

"It is important," says Ms. Campbell, "to water your Easter lily regularly once it starts growing. If it does not receive a regular supply of water, it is likely to have fewer buds, less foliage and could have abnormally shaped flowers. Easter lilies also like lots of light and an application of a high phosphorous fertilizer at least every two weeks until they flower.

March 27, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSING ALTERNATIVES

by Carol-Lee Eckhardt
Regional Home Design Consultant
Alberta Agriculture, Grande Prairie

The farm family, like the city family, has four alternatives to choose from in making their need for a house into a reality. Each has advantages and disadvantages.

They are mobile housing, pre-built modular housing, pre-fab package housing, and custom built housing.

Mobile Housing

The mobile home is 'instant' housing. It is delivered to the site ready to move in. Also, it is the lowest in cost.

There are obvious disadvantages to the mobile home, however. Plans are limited and entrance areas are too small for the farm situation. Finishing materials are limited in choice and usually of a poorer quality. The mobile home depreciates with age. After ten years it is very difficult to obtain fire insurance, unless it is high-risk insurance at $1.50 per $100 value. It is difficult to add on to a mobile home and there are the problems of trying to match roof lines and exterior finishing materials. The mobile home is usually seen as a temporary housing solution.

Pre-Built Modular Housing

Pre-built modular housing is the next highest type of industrialized housing. The home is delivered on site in two or more sections. All that is required for finishing is water, gas and electrical hook up, and interior painting. It can save the farmer months of work building his home.

These homes are built solidly to facilitate hauling. Every wall is literally a box beam, and is reinforced with 3/8" aspenite or plywood underneath the gyproc.

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Housing Alternatives (cont'd)

There is a high degree of flexibility in the plans and finishing materials. You can even develop your own plan and have it built at one of the factories. However, the manufacturers will charge an extra fee of $300 for blueprints. This, to be blunt, is a rip-off, as blueprints run at 10 ¢ per square foot of living space for custom-built homes. However, once the house is up, it is impossible to tell it from a custom-built home.

The pre-built modular home is one of the most expensive types of housing ($30/sq ft finished) because of the amount of labor done in the factory, and transportation costs. It usually requires a higher down payment.

Pre-Fab Package Housing

The pre-fab home is delivered in parts: walls, floors, trusses and cupboards. The owner is responsible for putting it all together. If a farmer has the time and skill, he can greatly cut costs by doing the work himself. Plans and finishing materials are almost unlimited.

Disadvantages are a longer construction period, dependence on subtrades and the availability of good contractors. In some regions it is very difficult to get plumbers, electricians or drywallers.

Custom-Built Housing

Custom housing can be the least or most expensive form of housing. The cost depends on the amount of work contracted out and the type of materials used. Design possibilities are limited only by cost. Another advantage to this type of housing is that it can be completed as money becomes available.

Disadvantages are a high on-site labor input, dependence on subtrades and their availability, time and the weather.

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Housing Alternatives (cont'd)

I have seen custom houses of 1,200 square feet go up in the Peace River region for under $20,000! How did the owners cut costs? They built the house themselves with or without the help of neighbors. They bought lumber from a local saw mill or cut it themselves, and they took their truck down to Edmonton and filled it up with windows, fixtures, insulation, shingles, etc. It pays to shop around. The less work hired out, the cheaper the house will be.

Log houses have been popping up all over--a relatively new trend. There is a rustic beauty in a log house that is unmatched by anything else. There are two ways of building a log house. One is using pre-cut logs that go together like a jigsaw puzzle. This is the quick method. The other method is to use your own logs and do it yourself, or hire someone to put it up for you. If you do it yourself, you can bring costs down to $25 per square foot. If you hire someone and buy the logs it can be even more expensive than a conventional house ($30/sq ft or more). Log house building is an art and takes twice as long as stud-frame housing to put the walls up. You should talk to someone who has done it before you attempt your own.

The Grande Prairie College offers a course in log house building.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE PROCESSING GRANT FOR TROCHU ABATTOIR

A group of Trochu area farmers and business people, desirous that economic growth continue in their community, are establishing a modern abattoir with the help of a $128,761 grant under the Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. The grant was announced by Marcel Lessard, federal minister of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE), and Marvin Moore, Alberta minister of Agriculture.

Incorporated in April 1976, Trochu Meat Processors Ltd. is owned by a group of local farmers and business people, and employs approximately six people. Although the abattoir's main purpose is to custom butcher and process cattle and hogs for farmers and ranchers in the community, it is also developing local wholesale and retail sales. It processes meat into such products as smoked sausages, bacon, hams and corned beef.

The nutritive processing grant, shared equally by DREE and Alberta Agriculture, is based on approximately 26 per cent of total eligible capital costs, estimated in this case at $489,401. The Nutritive Processing Agreement was established to help food processing plants that decide to locate or expand facilities in rural Alberta.

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April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE POTATO SITUATION

The 1977-78 North American potato crop year will probably end up being regarded as a good production year, but, for the most part, a bleak marketing year.

Don Macyk of Alberta Agriculture's Market Analysis Branch says Canadian and American potato producers will probably experience poor prices to the end of June or July. Record potato supplies from the biggest Canadian crop ever and the second biggest United States fall potato crop set the tone for the winter and spring potato market. The loss of European markets, which have taken a considerable volume of potatoes over the past two years, has further dampened price prospects. Although an expected increase in fresh and processed potato consumption is expected to help the situation, processed potato stocks will probably be at or near record levels at the end of the crop year. "Processing contracts for the 1978-79 crop year are expected to reflect the lower potato requirements and any price improvement will be limited," Mr. Macyk says.

He expects table stock potato acreages to be the same as last year in Quebec, Ontario and the western provinces. Total Manitoba potato acreage will increase to meet expanded processing requirements. However, the maritime table stock acreage is expected to be down. It is also expected to be down in the United States, especially in the mid-west.

Mr. Macyk believes that Alberta potato producers will maintain or slightly increase their acreage devoted to the production of potatoes this year.

He thinks that Western Canadian, and especially Alberta prices, have held up surprisingly well over the last year in view of the overall North American supply situation. "Although Alberta prices showed some weakening early last fall, they recovered to the extent that they have averaged among the highest in North America for similar quality," he says. The Alberta supply situation does not appear overly burdensome and increased marketings in Saskatchewan and British Columbia for Alberta fresh table potatoes will probably mean the steady movement of Alberta potatoes to the end of the present crop year supplies.

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The Potato Situation (cont'd)

The total acreage devoted to potato production in Alberta has fluctuated from a low of about 16,000 acres in 1955 to a peak of 32,000 acres in 1970. During this same period potato production in the province has fluctuated between about 5 and 12 per cent of the national production figure. The total value of Alberta's potato industry currently ranges between $15 to $20 million a year. At this time the province has six potato packers and three potato processing plants.

An analysis of recent potato production in Alberta suggests that about 60 per cent of total supplies are processed, 35 per cent are used as fresh market potatoes and 5 per cent are used for seed. Generally speaking, Alberta is a net exporter of potatoes and potato products, but the industry's recent contraction phase has probably changed this position to one that is closer to that of self-sufficiency.

At the present time the potato industry in Alberta accounts for slightly more than a third of the potatoes produced by the four western provinces, ranking second only to Manitoba's potato industry which has been expanding since about 1972 and is expected to continue to expand through 1978.

April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED OUTLOOK

Prices for most forage seeds will remain strong for the remainder of the 1977-78 year and market prospects for the future look reasonably bright.

Marcel Maisoneuve, chairman of the Alberta Forage Seed Council with Alberta Agriculture, says that price prospects look good for several reasons. One of these is that interest in forage seed production, which dropped off in recent years because of attractive returns from oilseed and cereal crops and because of poor weather in the major seed growing areas, is increasing in reaction to weaker grain prices and the desire on the part of farmers to grow cash crops. This situation will naturally create more demand for forage seeds. Another reason for the reasonably bright future for forage seeds is that carryover stocks of most varieties will continue to be rebuilt over the next few years.

Mr. Maisoneuve thinks that prices will remain high while present seed stocks are being depleted, but that forage seed producers can expect some buyer resistance in the new crop year, especially if this year's crop prospects look good. He points out that Canada is going to have to supply acceptable certified seed if she wants to share any of the European market and overcome tariffs and subsidies which are detrimental to free trade. Europe is continuing its long-range plan of restricting the entry of nonpedigreed seed.

Creeping Red Fescue

All factors considered, it is reasonable to expect the red fescue seed market to recover from its short-term weakness. Although a recovery in the 1978 kentucky bluegrass crop is anticipated under normal growing conditions, and this could cause a downward pressure on the price of red fescue seed, it will be counterbalanced by the low carryover of this seed in Canada plus an expected small crop in 1978. The devaluation of the Canadian dollar should also help to keep prices strong in the foreseeable future.

Production of Boreal fescue is needed to recapture some of the European market and to remove total dependence on the United States export market.

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Forage Seed Outlook (cont'd)

Timothy

Prices for timothy seed are expected to remain firm during the 1978-79 crop year but they are not expected to reach the high levels experienced in 1977-78. Prices strengthened dramatically at the end of the 1976-77 crop year because supplies from the 1977 Canadian and United States crop were small. The very small carryover expected at the beginning of the next crop year as a result of the small North American crop in 1977 and good exports and domestic demand during the present crop is expected to keep prices for this seed firm.

Clovers

Price prospects for alsike clover during the 1978-79 crop year are not particularly bright because of an expected high carryover.

Price prospects for sweetclover should remain stable during the new crop year. This year's production is expected to be only average, and there is a good demand for this seed in the United States.

Price prospects for red clover are expected to remain firm into the new crop year in Canada and the United States but will not be excessive.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa seed prices should remain strong during the coming crop year because of the tight supply situation in Canada.

April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEEDLING BLIGHT OF RAPE

The best way to prevent seedling blight of rape is to sow the seed shallowly in a firm seedbed.

Plant pathologists with Alberta Agriculture explain that seedlings that are not planted shallowly die because of a decay that sets in before they become well established. "This decay," they say, "is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil and which attacks both Polish and Argentine type rapeseed."

Seedling blight generally occurs when growing conditions are not favorable to the crop. Plants that are weakened by their struggle to reach the soil surface after deep seeding and by cool growing conditions are very susceptible to seedling blight.

Seedling blight was very severe in 1975, which had a cool, dry spring, because many rape growers seeded too deeply in an attempt to place the seed in moist soil. The pathologists point out that fields that were reseeded when moisture conditions had improved and temperatures were higher produced good stands of rape with an insignificant percentage of seedling blight.

Since seedling blight does not infect cereal crops, this problem is generally less severe when rape is grown after a cereal crop than when it is grown after rape, flax or clover.

The pathologists recommend the following procedures to reduce rape losses from seedling blight.

- Sow rape no deeper than 2.5 cm. In dry soil it is better to sow at this depth than to sow deeper to reach moisture.
- Sow rape in a firm seedbed.
- Use a combination insecticide-fungicide seed treatment. It will provide some protection against seedling blight, seed decay and the flea beetle problem.
- Keep the land free of rape and cruciferous weeds for a period of two or more years before using it for a rape crop.

April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ELECTRIC FENCE TO KEEP BEARS OUT OF BEEYARDS

Are you a beekeeper? Do you have problems with bears raiding your beeyard in the summer? Then you will be interested in a portable electric fence that can be set up by two men in two hours and removed by one man in half an hour.

Designed by John Gunson and Willy Wynnyk of Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife with financial assistance from Alberta Agriculture, the fence consists of plastic posts placed over concrete rebar stakes, multistrand wire "rope" (which does not kink when the fence is rolled up) a fencer unit and a 12-volt wet cell battery.

Both the fish and wildlife division of Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and Alberta Agriculture have received many complaints in the past from beekeepers who found the standard type of electric fence too cumbersome to move when their colonies had to be moved from one pollinating site to another.

None of the 14 fences that were tested last summer had been penetrated by bears at the end of the season. However, as is the case with any electric fence, regular maintenance is essential.

A publication entitled "Design and Effectiveness of a Portable Electric Fence for Apairies", written by the designers, describes how to construct and maintain the fence. The publication can be obtained from the Apiary Branch, Alberta Agriculture, O. S. Longman Building, 6905 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2.

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April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNOW MOLD

Are you wondering what to do about the snow mold on your lawn?

Dr. Jack Horricks, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, says there is nothing you can do if the snow has already melted. However, if there are still patches of snow in shady places, you should shovel them off the lawn immediately. Dr. Horricks points out that snow mold damage has already occurred by the time the snow has melted. Hence, raking or sweeping off the whitish-grey cobweb-like material, which appears as the snow melts, does not do any good.

This cobweb-like material is caused by four different fungi which kill the grass in irregular patches. Three of the fungi kill it during late winter and early spring, while the fourth can also kill it in the fall.

Dr. Horricks suggests anyone planning to plant a lawn this spring use a snow mold-resistant grass seed like Sydport, New Port, Nugget or Kentucky Bluegrass. These varieties are also recommended for golf fairways. Bardot and Bore Colonial bentgrasses and Northland creeping bentgrass are recommended for golf and bowling greens.

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April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"THE MINI SHOPPER"

by Judy Crawford
Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Vulcan

Did you ever wonder what is going through the mind of the preschooler sitting in the shopping cart across the aisle from you? He seems to be wiggling around a lot. Is he bored, or is he just taking it all in?

There is a lot for a child to learn about in stores - - - colours and letters on labels, textures, the shapes of different packages and shopping habits.

What do you think he will learn if his parents haphazardly grab tins off the shelf, stop at the sale counter and load up there and then race over to the check-out counter - - - doing the month's shopping in less than 15 minutes?

Compare this to the child who sees his parents shopping with a list, carefully examining labels and prices, walking past specials unless they are on the list and carefully counting the change at the checkout counter. Remember that actions speak louder than words to a pre-schooler!

Good shopping habits can take many years to develop so why not start with your "mini shopper". Make shopping trips fun for him. Keep the trips to a reasonable length so that your child does not become restless. Draw his attention to the things you look for - - - information on labels, size comparisons, prices etc. He may not understand why you do it right away, but he will see your actions, and that will form a basis for future explanations.

As he begins to understand money, let him count some change. You might want to give him a few small coins and let him pick out an item in that price range. This way he will learn that some things cost more than others, how to make a decision,how to judge the value of goods (will it last?) and how to count change.

By sharing your shopping experiences and habits,you can help your child to become a responsible "mini shopper".

April 3, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1978

Alberta Home Economics Association Convention
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . April 15

Airdrie Farm and Trade Fair
Airdrie Arena
Airdrie, Alberta . . . . April 22 - 23

Alberta Sheep Conference
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . April 26 - 28

International Society of Agriculture Convention
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . May 17 - 19

Provincial 4-H Selections
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . May 19 - 22

The Alberta Women's Institutes
Annual Convention
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . May 29 - June 1

4-H Canadian Council Meeting
Chateau Halifax
Halifax, Nova Scotia . . . . May 29 - June 3

Alberta Institute of Agrologists (Provincial)
Annual Meeting
Grande Prairie, Alberta . . . . June 11 - 12

Fifth International Rapeseed Conference
Malmö, Sweden . . . . June 12 - 16

Eighth Annual Alberta Provincial Plowing Match &
Canadian Plowing Championship Match
Wanham, Alberta . . . . June 14 - 17

International Soil Science Congress
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . June 19 - 27

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

National Convention Canadian Feed Industry Association
Four Seasons Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . June 21 - 23

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Regina Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . June 21 - 24

Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Canadian Institute of
Food Science & Technology
Edmonton Plaza Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . June 25 - 28

University of Alberta — Feeders' Day
Grande Prairie, Alberta . . . . June 29 - 30

Agricultural Institute of Canada
Annual Convention
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . July 2 - 6

The Second World Simmental Congress
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 5 - 11

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . July 9 - 12

"Whoop-Up Days" Lethbridge & District
Association Exhibition & Fair
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . July 17 - 22

1978 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . July 19 - 29

Eighth International Sunflower Conference
Leamington Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota . . . . July 23 - 27

Canadian Home Economics Association Convention
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . July 25 - 29

Alberta Polled Hereford Club Annual Meeting
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . August 12

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Second International Green Crop Dehydration
Congress - Dri-Crops '78
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . August 20 - 25

Annual Field Day
Alberta Horticultural Research Centre
Brooks, Alberta. . . . . .August 25

Sixth International Cereal and Bread Congress
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . September 16 - 22

"Cereals '78: Better Nutrition for the World's Millions"
Canadian International Grains Institute
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . September 16 - 22

World's Poultry Congress
Hotel Nacional
Rio de Janiero, Brazil . . . . September 17 - 21

Western Canadian Farm Management and Extension Workshops
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . September 18 - 20

Feed Industry Conference
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . September 21 - 22

Canadian Extension Council
Quebec City, Quebec. . . . . September 26 - 28

Provincial Department of Agriculture
Personnel Director's Conference
Quebec City, Chateau Frontenac. . . . . October

Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet and Presentations
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .October 18

1978 Agriculture Week
Alberta . . . . October 22 - 28

Northern Alberta Hereford Club
Annual Meeting
Forestburg, Alberta. . . . . November 4

Women of Unifarm Annual Convention
Sheraton Calgary Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . .November 7 - 8

Farmfair '78
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 7 - 17

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Annual Meeting and In-Service Training
Sandman Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 21 - 24

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
Annual Meeting
El Rancho Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . .December

The Royal Smithfield Show
Earls Court
London, England. . . . . .December

1978 American Society of Agricultural
Engineer Winter Meeting
Theme "The Challenge: More Food - Less Energy"
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. . . . . .December 18 - 21

1979

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . January 8 - 12

Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Convention
Paliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . February 5 - 7

Canadian Western Stock Show and Sale and Superodeo
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .March 25 - 31

Canadian Institute of Food Science & Technology (CIFST)
Annual Conference
Quebec City, Quebec. . . . . May 26 - 29

1979 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . July 18 - 28

Agricultural Institute of Canada
Annual Convention
New Brunswick . . . . August 19 - 23

Seventeenth Tri-Annual International Conference of
Agricultural Economists
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . September 5 - 15

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Farmfair '79
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 6 - 16

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

MAY 5 1978

April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREATING CALF SCOURS

Weather, as cattlemen know only too well, greatly influences the incidence of calf scour outbreaks. Treatment should be started as soon as any scouring is noticed and should be aimed at removing the cause of the scours and rehydrating the calf.

Dr. Frank Baker, Alberta Agriculture's extension veterinarian, suggests that cattlemen follow the recommendations of the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) which are listed below.

- Ear tag each calf at birth so that you can tell when a calf started to scour, how many times it has been treated and which cow it belongs to. An alternative is to mark calves on different parts of their bodies or with different colors each time you treat them.

- Isolate scouring calves from the rest of the herd and treat them early. Antibiotic and antibacterials can be administered by mouth or by injection. There is good evidence to suggest that oral administration is beneficial in treating scours caused by bacteria such as E. coli, but there is little data to indicate whether or not they are useful in treating viral scours. Since it is often not possible to tell whether the scours are being caused by bacteria or a virus or both, ask your veterinarian whether or not you should use an antibiotic.

- Give electrolyte fluids as soon as a calf starts to scour. Those which are depressed, but still able to stand and suck may require only one to three litres,which can be given by a bottle with a nipple on it. One litre should be given every six to eight hours. Calves which will not suck or stand but are strong enough to lie holding their heads up require approximately one litre administered by a stomach tube every six to eight hours until they are able to stand or until the diarrhea has stopped. Calves which cannot sit up without support usually require intravenous fluids and the attention of a veterinarian. These calves often experience a severe drop in body temperature and should be covered with a blanket or sack.

- (cont'd) -

Treating Calf Scours (cont'd)

A number of commercial electrolyte solutions are available from veterinarians. If a commercial product is not available you can make an electrolyte solution by adding one tablespoonful of baking soda and one teaspoonful of table salt to a gallon of warm water. Sugar should not be added because calves cannot degest it. The solution should be warmed to body temperature before it is administered. When continued treatment is necessary, it is more beneficial to give one litre of the solution every six to eight hours than to give a larger volume every 24 hours.

Restricting the milk intake of scouring calves for 24 hours following the onset of diarrhea may be helpful and is recommended in cases where the cow can be milked out and left with her calf. This procedure is not recommended during an outbreak of scours because it is not practical to milk out the cows and because separating the calves from their mothers causes considerable stress.

Although there are several commercial preparations which contain Kaolin and Pectin on the market for treating calf scours, VIDO staff have not found them to be beneficial. The practice of feeding raw eggs, followed by some cattlemen, is not recommended because calves cannot digest egg protein.

Control

Among the measures recommended by VIDO to prevent scours are the avoidance of overcrowding and prolonged confinement of cattle, calving cows and heifers separately, confining cattle in small groups, minimizing stress on newborn calves and the provision of extra care for weak calves. A weak calf which develops scours could start an outbreak.

April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEAN FEEDLOT CATTLE MAKE MORE MONEY

Feedlot cattle that are kept clean and dry in well designed, well bedded pens will cost their owners an estimated $20 to $30 per head less than cattle kept in wet, muddy pens. The latter are found in many feedlots at this time of the year.

Alberta Agriculture's livestock specialist, Ross Gould, reports that the above estimate is based on information contained in a new Agriculture Canada bulletin entitled "Cleaner Feedlot Cattle" (publication No. 1611). It quotes results obtained from research carried out in both Saskatchewan and California which showed that clean, comfortable cattle can gain 0.27 to 0.31 kg per day faster than animals that are kept in muddy pens with no bedding.

Dr. C. M. Williams of the University of Saskatchewan says that the feed intake of fast-gaining cattle kept in comfortable surroundings is similar to that of slow-gaining animals kept in unbedded, wet pens. He estimated that bedded steers will reach a slaughter grade two weeks before steers which have no bedding.

At an average daily gain of 1.13 kg, a feedlot steer would take 120 days to gain 135 kg. At an average daily gain of 0.86 kg in a wet muddy pen, the same steer would take 158 days to gain 135 kg or an extra 38 days. Since the daily cost of feed, overhead and labor could easily come to $1 per day, the cost of keeping steers in muddy and unbeded pens for only half the feeding period (19 or 20 extra days) would be very nearly $20 per head.

The Agriculture Canada bulletin also points out that the extra cost of slaughtering and processing cattle with dirty hides is estimated to be about $3.65 per head. To recover these losses cattle buyers often take a "tag dock" of from 2¢ to 4¢ per kilogram on dirty cattle. This $10 loss at the market place plus the extra cost of finishing dirty cattle accounts for the estimated $20 to $30 per head loss on dirty cattle.

Mr. Gould reports that when Alberta Agriculture conducted feedlot surveys in 1973 and 1974, it was found that three main factors contributed to dirty cattle. These were too little bedding given too infrequently, poor feedlot drainage and overcrowded feedlot pens.

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Clean Feedlot Cattle Make More Money (cont'd)

Some of the feedlot operators survey suggested that three-quarters of a bale of straw per week was enough bedding in most cases. However, this volume would have to be increased in periods of heavy rain or snow.

Space

The Agriculture Canada bulletin suggests that 23 m^2 per animal is the minimum amount of space required for a clearly defined bedding mound to be established. Such a mound when completely separated from the feeding and watering area, gives the cattle a comfortable dry place to lie even when the rest of the pen is wet.

Drainage

Feedlot pens should be designed so that drainage is away from the feeding and bedding areas. A slope of at least 4 per cent seems to be necessary for a satisfactory runoff.

Manure Removal

Manure should be removed from a feedlot at least once a year and it should be scraped away from the feeding area whenever it starts to accumulate there. This is especially important during the spring thaw.

Windbreaks

Windbreaks should be placed back from the feedlot so that drifts will not pile up in the lot and add to the muddy conditions in the spring.

Paving

Paving heavy traffic areas around waterers and feed bunks will prevent them from becoming wet and muddy during the spring thaw and rainy periods.

Mr. Gould points out that the most important factors involved in keeping feedlot cattle comfortable and dry are a roomy pen with a well bedded mound. Careful drainage and

- (cont'd) -

Clean Feedlot Cattle Make More Money (cont'd)

windbreak planning and the paving of heavy traffic areas will further improve conditions in the feedlot. "The time and money spend on these aspects of a feedlot operation will pay good dividends." he says.

Metric Conversion:

2.2 lb = 1 kg

1 lb = 454 g

1 sq ft x 0.09 = 1 sq metre (m^2)

April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

Farmers who are eligible for assistance under the federal-provincial Feed Freight Assistance Program, which has been extended from March 31 to June 30, are asked to have the following information with them when they go to their local Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation office to fill out their application forms.

- The receipted invoice for the forage purchased and delivered to the farm.
- The type and quantity of forage purchased and moved. This should be stated in tons; not in bales.
- The dates of purchase and delivery.
- The names and addresses of the vendor and the purchaser.
- The legal land description of the origin and destination of the feed moved.
- The one-way mileage involved in moving the feed.
- The number of livestock owned or leased.
- The applicant's social insurance number. This is essential.

Larry Gareau, forage crop specialist with Alberta, says applications will be processed more quickly if farmers take the above information when they go to fill out their application forms. He also points out that to be eligible for assistance under the Feed Freight Assistance Program, the feed must have been moved from an area of surplus to an area of deficiency in southern Alberta. The latter is bounded by Highway No. 1 from Banff to Calgary, Highway No. 2 from Calgary to Lacombe and Highway No. 12 from Lacombe to Compeer on the Saskatchewan border, excluding the counties of Lethbridge and Hewell and the M.D. of Taber.

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April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED TREATMENT RECOMMENDED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF BLACK LEG

To prevent the spread of a new virulent strain of black leg to Alberta, provincial department of Agriculture plant pathologists are urging rapeseed growers to treat all rapeseed brought into the province with a fungicide.

This new strain of black leg first made its appearance in Saskatchewan in 1975. At that time it did little damage, but last summer it destroyed as much as 70 per cent of severely affected fields in the Melfort region of Saskatchewan. It is very similar to the strain of black leg that has caused severe damage to rapeseed in Australia and to cabbage crops in the United States and is even more destructive than sclerotinia stem rot, which attacks rape crops throughout the world.

The mild strain of black leg that has been around for many years does little damage to rape crops because it does not attack the plants until they are almost mature. The new strain, on the other hand, infects plants in the seedling stage, causing cankers to develop on the stems. The cankers kill many of the plants and cause the seed to shrivel. Both strains of black leg are spread by infected straw of the previous year's crop and contaminated seed.

The fungicide benomyl has been given temporary registration this year to combat the spread of this seed-borne fungal disease. It is available in Alberta under the trade names of Benlate T. (Dupont), Benlate-Thiralin (Niagara), Benolin (I.P. Co-op) and Gammasan + (Chipman).

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April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO BE CONTINUED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced that the Market Garden Development Program will be continued again this year.

Initiated in 1976, this program is intended to increase market gardening in Alberta by providing assistance to growers in the form of development grants. These grants are to be used for buying seed, fertilizer, garden equipment etc. The grant is $500 for two or more acres (87,120 sq ft) of vegetables and/or fruit.

To be eligible for one of these grants, a market gardener must produce and market all his produce from a minimum of two acres. The grants cover all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberries and strawberries. The vegetables and fruits must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold directly to the consumer. Marketing can be done, for example, through farm gate sales, farmers' markets or on a 'pick-your-own' basis.

Since a market garden is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, a person who has already received a grant under the Market Garden Development Program and a grant under the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program or two grants under the Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program or the Market Garden Development Program is not eligible for a grant this year.

Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants under the Market Garden Development Program must file an application by July 1 with the Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from the horticulture branch and from district agriculturists.

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April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SUCCESS STORY

Alberta is still the only province in Canada that is free of rats. What is the secret of this success?

Joe Gurba, head of Alberta Agriculture's pest control branch and the man who has been in charge of rat control in the province for the last 25 years credits the fact that Alberta has been free of rats for 27 consecutive years to three main factors.

One of them is the 11-km wide, 228-km long buffer zone that extends along Alberta's eastern border from Montana in the south to Cold Lake in the north. Last year 2,430 farms, grain elevators and other premises were checked periodically by seven municipal and provincial pest control officers who worked with local residents to prevent invading rats from penetrating the area of the province that lies to the west of the buffer zone. About 6.6 tonnes of ready-mixed warfarin bait and 1,986 packages of water-soluble bait were used to destroy an estimated 20,000 migrating rats before they could become established and multiply.

Mr. Gurba says there is no problem keeping rats from entering Alberta on her western border because of the Rocky Mountains. There is no problem from the north because there are only a few human settlements there, and there is no problem from the south because Montana has a very efficient rat control program.

The second factor which Mr. Gurba credits with playing an important part in keeping Alberta free of rats is the 250 pest control officers. Appointed by urban and rural municipalities, they investigate all reports of rat sightings throughout the province and take immediate action on the rare occassions that a sighting turns out to be a bona fide rat.

The third, and the most important factor in Alberta's remarkable success story, is what Mr. Gurba describes as a "rat conscious" public. He reports that the moment there is any suspicion of a rat having got through the buffer zone or having come into the province via a

- (cont'd) -

A Success Story (cont'd)

freight car, somebody is on the telephone to one of the offices that deals with rat control. He says even if such a person has difficulty finding the correct office, he will persist until he gets it. As an example of the trouble people will take to have a suspected rat investigated, Mr. Gurba cities the case of the rat that arrived in Edmonton with a shipment of hydraulic parts from Vancouver. In this case the employees, all except one woman, thought it was a big mouse. The woman did not really believe it was a big mouse and persevered until she got the animal investigated and exterminated. In another case a rat was found near Vermilion and quickly exterminated. It was suspected of having arrived in that area in a truckload of pipe from Lloydminster.

Mr. Gurba emphasizes that most of the credit for Alberta's unique status as a rat-free province must go to the residents of the province. He points out that the tremendous co-operation and support he and his staff have received from the public has proved over the years that it is possible to exclude the world's most destructive rodent from an area as large as Alberta. "With their continued help, we intend to keep Alberta rat free," he says.

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Correction

The date of the University of Alberta's Annual Feeder's Day (Coming Agricultural Events — April 3 issue of Agri-News) is June 28 and 29; NOT June 29 and 30 as stated.

Addition

The Alberta Pork Congress
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . June 20 - 22/78

April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA LEAFCUTTER ASSOCIATION

A group, made up of farmers and others concerned about the drop in alfalfa seed production in Western Canada, have formed the Alberta Leafcutter Association.

According to Aubrey Sherman, forage specialist with Alberta Agriculture, alfalfa seed production in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba was down by more than 2.5 million pounds last year. "This decline in production and the need for more alfalfa seed in the United States has resulted in a severe shortage of seed and high prices to livestock producers," he says.

Alfalfa seed producers are starting to realize that to increase production and to remain competitive in the alfalfa seed production industry, they must have sufficient quantities of high quality leafcutter bees. Hence, the Alberta Leafcutter Association intends to work towards:

- establishing an amicable relationship between alfalfa seed growers and leafcutter bee raisers,
- establishing the most efficient management techniques for the production of leafcutter bees and seed,
- establishing a good rapport with research personnel,
- establishing recommended effective standards for the industry,
- disseminating of information to bee raisers within the province and to leafcutter bee associations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Members of the Alberta association believe that the association will provide a meeting place for the exchange of information and ideas and informal buying and selling opportunities. They also intend to provide representatives of the seed growers with information on bee management techniques, and grading and selling standards. The new organization also hopes to participate in the co-ordinating and monitoring of the quality of bees imported into Alberta and

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Leafcutter Association (cont'd)

bee equipment. In addition, it is felt that it can function as an effective lobbying group for funds. Association members would like to ensure that adequate research is carried out to protect and encourage the leafcutter bee industry.

The Alberta Leafcutter Association will be very much involved in promoting the establishment of a cocoon testing centre to test the viability and health of cocoons being used by alfalfa seed producers. In addition to other things, this centre would monitor the density and diversity of parasites in the three prairie provinces and substantiate and record the appearance of any new ones. The idea here is to stop the importation into Canada of harmful parasites and pathogens that attack leafcutter bees.

Anyone who would like further information on the new Alberta Leafcutter Bee Association should contact A. E. Sherman, Secretary-Treasurer, Bag Service No. 1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 0B0.

April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H FARM SAFETY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

If you are a member of 4-H, you are invited to share your ideas on farm safety by entering the 4-H farm safety photography contest. It is a province-wide competition, and is part of the Farm Safety Program that is co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Labor.

Since farm safety involves avoiding many hazards, entries should reflect this wide range of hazards, and they should place special emphasis on the human side of farm and farm home accidents. They should also show the factors that contribute to an accident and any actual mishap that may occur.

4-H members may enter single photographs in either color or black and white. Clubs may enter group competitions by entering both color and black and white photograph collection. All photographs will be evaluated at the club level, and the best in each class will be sent to the Farm Safety Program for final judging. Judging will be based on the contributors' age and photographic experience.

The idea of the contest is to be encourage 4-H'ers to illustrate clearly their concerns about farm safety. These concerns will be used to help formulate future safety programs for rural youth.

Above average entries will be used to promote farm safety throughout the province. Those that are outstanding may appear on posters, brochures and in reports and manuals. The winners will be given a prize and a memento of the contest.

Contest details are available in poster form in district agriculturist and 4-H regional offices. All entries must reach the Farm Safety Program office by October 31, 1978.

The address of the Farm Safety Program is Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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April 10, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"THE FAMILY BANK"

by Judy Crawford
Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Vulcan

Have you ever wondered when your child should be allowed to open a bank account? There are two ways of looking at it.

First of all, banking is a definite part of our lives. Your child will become involved with it at some time, and it is a good idea to prepare him for it.

On the other hand, banking is something that requires a great deal of responsibility. Keeping records, not overdrawing a chequing account, balancing the books --- is he ready for this?

Why not prepare him for that responsibility yourself. You do not need to open a real bank account to give him the experience of handling one. You can form your own family bank! That way you can work closely with your child in every step of the banking business.

Start by drawing up your own cheques, deposit slips, and cheque books. Then appoint a "parent-teller".

Instead of giving cash for allowances, why not automatically deposit the full amount in your child's account? Then if he wants cash, he should write a cheque, enter the amount in his cheque book and present the cheque to the teller.

At the end of every two weeks or month (depending on the age of the "client"), prepare a statement for the account and have him balance it.

When the time comes to open a real bank account, your child will know how to write cheques, fill out deposit slips, keep an accurate cheque book and balance a statement. Your family bank will have made the real bank's job much easier, and you can have the satisfaction of knowing that you have brought up a responsible money handler.

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AGRI-NEWS

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA POTATO MONTH

Marvin Moore has declared April as Alberta Potato Month.

It is hoped that Alberta consumers will make a special point of purchasing home grown Alberta potatoes during this period. By doing this, they will ensure that the growing of potatoes in this province will remain a viable agricultural industry.

The quality of Alberta potatoes is good and the flavor is pleasing to the palate.

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE ALBERTA PLANTS RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Five more Alberta plants have received assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. They are Morrison Meat Centre Ltd. in Fort McMurray, Tegart Apiaries of Fairview, Hamel's Meat Market in Bonnyville, Banks Feeds Ltd. in Drayton Valley and a new bakery in Cardston.

These grants were announced jointly by Marcel Lessard, federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The cost of the assistance is shared equally by the two governments.

Morrison Meat Centre Ltd.

Morrison Meat Centre Ltd. received a grant of $10,661 based on 20 per cent of the total eligible capital invested in the project, estimated to be $53,306.

The owner of the plant, Henry Visscher, anticipates a growing freezer-order business as well as the regular sale of meat cuts processed in his plant. It is expected that the new meat centre will create five full and part-time jobs in the area.

Tegart Apiaries

Tegart Apiaries received a grant of $56,249 which is based on 27.25 per cent of the eligible capital invested in the project, estimated at $206,418.

The apiary will begin making raw beeswax into edible wax foundation sheets, which are used to provide the basis for new honey combs in bee hives. Four new jobs are expected to be created.

Although the Tegart Apiaries are located in northern Alberta, which boasts the highest honey production in Canada, they and other honey producers in the area have been using wax foundation sheets produced in Eastern Canada and the United States.

Hamel's Meat Market

Hamel's Meat Market received a grant of $12,213, which is based upon 15 per cent of the eligible capital employed in the project. This capital is estimated at $81,418.

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Five Alberta Plants Receive Nutritive Processing Assistance (cont'd)

Hamel's Meat Market, established in 1929, will continue to specialize in home-cured bacon, blood sausage from an old family recipe, and Black Forest Ham in addition to its regular meat cuts. It is expected that two additional jobs will be created as a result of the expansion.

Banks Feed Ltd.

Banks Feed Ltd. received a grant of $25,525 based on 19.1 per cent of the eligible capital invested in the project. It is estimated at $133,639.

The new plant will market processed and bagged livestock feed. The dry roll and pellet feeds for both livestock and poultry will be mainly used by farmers in the Drayton Valley area. The plant will also provide a custom grind and mix service. It is expected that seven full and part-time jobs will be created as a result of the new feed mill.

Bakery at Cardston

The new bakery in Cardston will receive a grant of $17,331 which is based upon 19.4 per cent of the eligible capital invested in the project. This capital is estimated at $89,333.

The owner of the bakery, who formerly operated a bakery in Ontario, plans to produce high-quality bread, meat pies and a variety of pastries. Initially three people will be employed by the new bakery.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement provides assistance to food processing plants that locate or expand their facilities in rural Alberta.

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD OUTLOOK

The following food outlook was complied by Alberta agriculture's market analysis branch and published by the food marketing branch.

Beef

Beef prices at the producer level have moved up considerably in the last few weeks with the full impact of price increases only begining to become evident at the retail counter. Expectations are that beef prices for the spring and into the summer will be high.

A major contributing factor to increased beef prices, apart from the devalued Canadian dollar, has been the surprising shortfall from anticipated levels of pork production. Currently, it is uncertain whether the anticipated level of pork production in North America will be reached. If it is not, the result will be increasing pork prices. This situation could change very quickly if the anticipated level of pork supplies is, in fact, attained.

Chicken

With the price of red meats rising in 1977, approximately 14 per cent of Alberta's chicken producers were able to increase sales by 10 per cent, while Canadian commercial sales increased by 5.5 per cent. The price of chicken at the producer level rose only 1¢ per pound live-weight between 1977 and 1978, and the retail price of chicken increased by approximately 3¢ per pound. Another factor contributing to improved markets for chicken was the downward movement in the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar. Thus the movement of chicken into Canada in the first three months of 1978 dropped by 8 per cent and the proportion of chicken of Canadian orgin being consumed rose.

Eggs

Retail egg prices have not increased significantly in the past three months despite the fact that the producer price rose by 2¢ due to the upward shift in the cost of production formula which reflected a seasonal increase in feed prices. These feed prices are expected to hold

- (cont'd) -

Food Outlook (cont'd)

or possibly moderate downwards in the third and fourth quarter of 1978, depending upon crop conditions and world markets.

Milk

Albertans are drinking more milk per capita than people anywhere else in Canada. Until 1977, Ontario was the leader in per capita consumption of fluid milk with Alberta following close behind. In 1977, the per capita consumption of milk in Alberta increased from 95.7 quarts per capita to an estimated 100 quarts. This combined with a population increase has raised fluid milk sales in the province by 6 per cent.

Vegetables

Fresh vegetable supplies and prices were erratic at times last winter as weather and transportation problems had a major effect on what is normally a fairly smooth flow of products to market. Overall though, local and imported produce moved more smoothly than a year ago, and at prices, for the most part, near last year's levels, even though the Canadian dollar will buy significantly fewer imports this year. As winter production regions give way to spring-producing regions, supplies of most imported fresh produce will probably stabilize and prices will be reasonable, though higher than last year owing to both slightly higher prices for U.S. and Mexican produce and the weaker Canadian dollar. The outlook for 1978 production is vastly improved over a year ago because of improved water availability in major U.S. production areas. The outlook for local produce is good as well, and plantings are expected to be above last year's levels.

Honey

Honey supplies are ample at steady prices and are expected to remain stable throughout the spring.

Sugar

Sugar supplies are more than ample, and prices are expected to remain reasonable and steady throughout the summer of 1978.

April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARMERS' SEEDING INTENTIONS

The number of acres Alberta farmers intend to seed to rapeseed this spring is expected to reach an all-time high of 2.3 million acres.

According to Fred Boyce, statistician with Alberta Agriculture, the March 15 survey of planting intentions, conducted by Statistics Canada, shows that this year's rapeseed acreage is expected to increase by 900,000 acres or nearly 65 per cent above that of last year.

Mr. Boyce reports that the total wheat acreage is expected to be similar to that of last year, which was 4.8 million acres. The acreage devoted to durum is expected to increase to 400,000 from 200,000 acres, while acreage seeded to spring wheat is expected to drop slightly.

Barley and flax acreages are predicted to be down from last year. The total barley acreage is expected to decline to 5.4 million acres from 5.6 million acres in 1977, representing a drop of 4 per cent. The flax acreage is expected to decrease to 50,000 acres from 120,000 in 1977. If this expectation materializes, the flax acreage in Alberta will be the lowest it has been since 1950.

Planting intentions for oats show no change in acreage from last year's 2 million acres.

Alberta's summerfallow acreage is expected to decrease by 500,000 acres this year, which means that it will drop to 6.6 million acreas from 7.1 million acres in 1977.

Survey correspondents report little or no change in the intended acreage of most other crops.

Mr. Boyce emphasizes that since the above figures represent farmers' seeding intentions as of March 15, the actual seeded acreage could vary substantially for a variety of reasons. These include such things as market prices, weather and even this report itself.

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Alberta Farmers' Seeding Intentions (cont'd)

The national intentions to plant are as follows:

	Thousand Acres		
	1978	1977	% 78/77
All Wheat	25,525	25,002	102
Oats	5,682	6,018	94
Barley	11,226	11,939	94
Rye	609	599	102
Flaxseed	1,050	1,420	74
Rapeseed	5,490	3,330	165
Summerfallow	25,800	27,200	95
Potatoes	261	275	95
Corn	1,755	1,801	97
Soybeans	600	500	120
Mixed Grains	1,554	1,543	101

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALINE SEEPAGE CONTROL

A total of 250,000 acres of dryland in Alberta are seriously affected by saline seepage.

According to Hank Vander Pluym, Alberta Agriculture's soil specialist at Lethbridge, the problem is greatest in southern and eastern parts of the province. He says that it increases more during a serious of wet years than during dry years, and that the present acreage of saline seepage is growing by about 10 per cent per year.

The first step in controling saline seepage is to prevent the water from percolating beyond the root zone in the recharge area, which is where the problem originates. This can be done by recropping and/or by the use of deep-rooted perennial crops and by surface drainage.

Mr. Vander Pluym says surface drainage is very effective and is often inexpensive. It entails the use of open ditches or buried pipe. Among the benefits derived from this approach is that it eliminates excess soil moisture before it becomes a problem, and it prevents the water from absorbing salt from the soil before it is drained off.

Although surface drainage often will not completely reclaim the land in the discharge area (saline seep), it will go a long way towards preventing the problem from increasing. Subsurface drainage is frequently required to reclaim the discharge area. However, at the present time, this approach is only economically feasible for sandy soils and for places where interceptor drains can be installed.

Because of the high investment required and the many problems that can be encountered, depending upon the type of soil and its chemical structure, a detailed hydrogeological investigation should always be carried out before a subsurface drainage project is embarked upon.

In the meantime Mr. Vander Pluym suggests growing salt-tolerant crops in saline seep areas. Salt-tolerant grasses include tall fescue, slender wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass and Russian wild ryegrass. The main salt-tolerant cereals are the six-row barley varieties.

April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW VOICE IN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

If you are interested in vegetation management, you will be pleased to know that a group of Alberta firms have formed the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta.

The firms, which formed the new organization, were formerly involved in an ad hoc committee which represented industrial land owners, commercial pesticide applicators and agricultural chemical companies. This committee served the very useful purpose of providing an opportunity for the three groups to meet and discuss common interests and problems, and it presented a well documented brief to the Environment Conservation Authority hearings in 1974 on the use of pesticides and herbicides in Alberta. It has since made representations to government on matters affecting the vegetation management industry.

The decision to establish a formal organization resulted from the continuing need for a liaison between all sectors of the vegetation management industry, and the need to make occasional representations to government. Besides providing a liaison between its members, the new organization will set and monitor ethical and technological standards. This means that its members will have to adhere to standards set by the association as well as to statutory requirements.

Membership in the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta is open to any firm or person who has industrial vegetation management as an interest. The cost of a membership is $25.

Anyone who would like more information about the organization or to apply for a membership should write to Mr. Wm. Grierson, Secretary, Industrial Vegetation Management, Association of Alberta, P. O. Box 8217, Postal Station F, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P1.

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE INSPECTIONS AT CATTLE MARKETS

Inspections under the Alberta Warble Control Program will continue at all markets and terminal stockyards in 1978.

Alberta Agriculture's livestock supervisor, Ross Gould, says that warble infested cattle being offered for sale, other than those being sold for slaughter within seven days, milking dairy cattle and animals that are sick or too young to treat, will continue be treated at the market. The cost of treating the animals will continue to be charged to the owner who will have $2 per head deducted from the proceeds of each animal that has to be treated.

To avoid the extra cost of having animals treated at the market, farmers are advised to check their cattle for grubs several weeks before they intend to sell them. Even in herds which are carefully treated in the fall, the odd animals may have one or two grubs. Treating these on the farm is cheaper than having them treated at a market.

It is important to remember that any animal treated with Neguvon, Grubex or Epco Trichlorofon cannot be slaughtered for 21 days after the pesticide has been applied. The wait period for cattle treated with Spotton is 45 days, but animals treated with Ruelene can be slaughtered seven days after treatment.

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS SEMINAR PROGRAM FINALIZED

This year's Alberta Pork Congress, scheduled to take place at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds from June 20 to 22 inclusive, will be featuring a very ambitious seminar program.

Fred Schuld, regional swine specialist at Red Deer, says that the program will include four seminars (twice as many as last year) and that two of the seminars will be held simultaneously and repeated on two different days to reduce the number of people attending each seminar at one time.

The titles of the seminars and the speakers are as follows:

Seminar A -- Baby Pig Scours. The speakers will be Dr. N. O. Neilsen of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon and Dr. J. Strokappe, a swine veterinarian from Red Deer.

Seminar B -- Dry Sow Feeding and Management. The speakers will be Dr. G. I. Christison from the University of Saskatchewan and a panel of three or four swine producers.

Seminar C -- Baby Pig Management. The speakers will be John Patience, swine specialist with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and a panel of three or four producers with different management methods.

Seminar D -- Dry Sow Breeding and Management. The speakers will be Dr. Phil McKinnon, regional swine specialist with Alberta Agriculture; Wallace Orr, a swine breeder, and D. S. Harbison, a swine breeding specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The seminar schedules are as follows:

June 20	1:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Seminars A + B
June 21	10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Seminars A + B
June 21	1:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Seminars C + D
June 22	9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Seminars C + D

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Alberta Pork Congress Seminar Program Finalized (cont'd)

Other events planned for this year's congress include:

Displays: These will cover swine building requirements, available swine equipment, feed, feed additives, credit, swine breeding stock and consumer concerns. The displays will be manned by commercial company personnel who cater to the needs of the swine industry.

Barbecue: It is schedule for 5 p.m., June 20, and will feature pork chops cooked by an expert chef.

Banquet and Dance: The banquet will start at 6 p.m. on June 21 at the Red Deer Lodge Hotel and will feature a superb pork buffet. This will be followed by the dance. The guest speaker at the banquet will be a well-known personality.

Carcass Sale: This event will be held at 9 p.m. on June 21 (following the banquet). Last year the top carcass sold for $4,600 to Gainers of Edmonton. The other nine carcasses accounted for $13,400.

Swine Show and Judging: This section of the congress will start at 9:30 a.m. on June 22 and will include both breeding stock and barrows.

Swine Sale: It will be held at 1 p.m. on June 22 and will include purebred boars and gilts from some of the best herds in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Don and Paul Hutton of St. Paul will be the auctioneers.

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NAME CHANGE FOR THE FARM DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The name of Alberta Agriculture's farm development division has been changed to the engineering and rural services division to better reflect the divisions' activities and to give the public a better idea of the information and services it provides.

The division is divided into two main sections. One deals with systems engineering, engineering research, farm structures, livestock waste, water, sewage and drainage, farmstead mechanization, agricultural machinery, feed and seed processing, engineering field services, home and community design and the administration of the Alberta Farm Implement Act.

The other deals with areas which are not oriented to engineering. These include agricultural service boards, agricultural development committees, agricultural societies, farm safety, agricultural manpower and special projects.

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April 17, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A BABYSITTER SERVICE

Do you have trouble getting a babysitter? If you get one, do you worry about how competent she is? Sometimes it is difficult to know of a good babysitter, particularly if you are new in the area.

In Stettler a group of teenagers have taken it upon themselves to solve this problem. They have set up a babysitters association to provide a reliable source of babysitters for the community and to help them to make use of their skills.

All the members of the association are graduates of the Alberta Safety Council's babysitters course and are qualified babysitters. They plan to give all parents who register with them a list of their members.

Such a babysitting association might be a good idea for your area!

Following is a list of things Betty Birch, district home economist at Stettler, suggests that you might do to make things easier for your babysitter and for your children.

- Give your children a chance to get to know the babysitter before leaving them with her.
- Give your babysitter clear instructions about what you want done.
- Do not tell young children that you will be right back if you will not be.
- Be sure to tell the babysitter where you will be all the time you are out, and try to be home when you say you will be. If you are delayed, let your babysitter know.
- Pay your babysitter what she is worth and be sure to let her know if she is not living up to your expectations.

It might be a good idea to put together a babysitters "cope kit". It could include emergency telephone numbers, basic first aid supplies, the telephone number of a neighbor (in case help is needed in a hurry) and a few special toys or treats that the babysitter could fall back on if she were having trouble with the children.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLYDE PLANT RECEIVES NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

The latest rural Alberta food processing plant to receive a grant under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is Clydes' Meats Ltd., a new abbatoir just outside Clyde.

The grant was announced jointly by Marcel Lessard, federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture. Shared equally by the two governments, the grant is for $60,781. It is based on 23 per cent of approved capital costs, which are estimated at $264,265.

The owner of Clydes' Meats Ltd, Hugh Hampshire, moved to Clyde, where he and his wife operate the general store, four years ago, after having worked in Edmonton for 20 years. He is building the new abbatoir in response to the demand by local farmers for custom slaughtering.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is designed to provide assistance to food processing plants that locate or expand their facilities in rural Alberta.

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEAT MOSS COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR CHICK LITTER

Several lots of farm chicks received at Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services laboratory in Edmonton in the last week or so have been found to be suffering from a disease caused by fungal spores in peat moss.

According to the head of the laboratory's poultry section, Dr. John Howell, the disease is caused by the fungus Aspergillus Fumigatus which grows in the lungs and air sacks of young birds, causing them to gasp for air.

Dr. Howell says that in each of the cases examined, it was found that peat moss was being used as litter for the chicks, all of which were less than a week old. He also says that the peat moss appeared to be the kind sold for gardens, and that the fungus was isolated from the samples of the peat moss that were tested. It would appear that the baby chicks in these cases had been inhaling fungal spores, which grew in their lungs and caused pneumonia (aspergillosis).

Losses from the fungus can be very heavy, and there is no treatment that is effective against this type of pneumonia. If the disease is suspected, the only thing that can be done is to remove the peat moss, and replace it with some other type of litter. This procedure will not help the chicks that already have the disease, but it will prevent new cases from developing.

Dr. Howell says mouldy straw is just as dangerous for baby chicks as peat moss that is infected with fungal spores. He believes that good quality shavings are probably the safest type of litter to use.

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TESTING BULLS FOR BREEDING SOUNDNESS

Among the things a cattle breeder should do to ensure a good calf crop next year is to evaluate the fertility of his bulls.

Alberta Agriculture's extension veterinarian, Dr. Frank Baker, advises evaluating all bulls, but especially those that have been recently purchased, for breeding soundness before the breeding season starts. He says the evaluation should consist of a physical examination of the animal as well as a microscopic examination of its semen. He stresses that the physical examination is as important as the semen evaluation because if the bull cannot travel, mount and serve a cow, he will be no use regardless of how excellent his semen may be.

The semen can be collected for microscopic examination through the use of an artificial vagina or by electroejaculation. Dr. Baker says electroejaculation is by far the most common method used. It entails stimulating the bull with a special machine to make him produce semen. This done by a veterinarian. The semen is then collected and examined under a microscope. The evaluation is based on such factors as volume, number of sperm, motility or activity of the sperm and the morphology or shape of the sperm.

Since veterinarians are trained to evaluate bulls for breeding soundness and are able to advise cattlemen on the suitability of an individual for breeding soundness, it is an unnecessary gamble to turn a bull out with cows without being reasonably sure of his breeding ability. It can be very frustrating and expensive to find out half way through the breeding season that a bull is not capable of settling the cows.

"A little time and money spent testing bulls before the breeding season starts will pay good dividends next spring," Dr. Baker says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED PRODUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS

In case you missed Alberta Agriculture's home study rapeseed course, held earlier this year, here is a summary of recommended practices by Andy Birch, district agriculturist at Stettler.

A Good Seedbed

A good seedbed is one that is uniform, well packed, weed free and moist within one inch of the surface. It should be so firm that when you stand on it, your shoes sink just enough to cover the soles. A firmly packed seedbed is a prerequisite for good germination.

Shallow tillage (two to three inches) with a cultivator, rod weeder and harrows will help to attain a firm seedbed and to control weed growth. Since most rapeseed is grown on summerfallow, one tillage operation prior to seeding may be sufficient. However, more tillage operations are necessary if rape is stubbled in.

Seeding Depth

Shallow seeding is necessary for good emergence for the relatively small seed of rape. The seed should be seeded to a depth of one-half to one inch in a firm, moist, well packed soil. Seeding at deeper levels weakens the seedlings, and greatly increases the possibility of seedling blight.

Rate of Seeding

High rates of seeding are not necessary and can even reduce yields. Yields obtained from seeding rates varying from two to 10 pounds per acre were not significantly different in field tests. When the plant population density is low, individual plants tend to branch and spread out more, and generally tend to produce seed pods lower down on their stalks.

The recommended seeding rate for Polish and Argentine rape varieties are four to six pounds per acre and five to seven pounds per acre respectively. These rates will have to be increased if the seed has a low germination or if soil crusting is likely to impair seedling emergence.

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Rapeseed Production Recommendations (cont'd)

Seeding Date

Research results from the federal research station at Beaverlodge indicate that the optimum planting date for Torch (similar for Candle) is during the last two weeks in May. When seeding was done then, it was found that it took less time for the plants to emerge, there was a greater chance of establishing a uniform stand and a greater chance of a higher average yield.

The optimum planting date for Tower is during the first two weeks in May. Seed yields have been found to be higher and the risk of a chilling frost in the fall is reduced when planting is done during this period.

Fertilizer Use

Rapeseed has a high requirement for nitrogen. It is estimated that an average 30-bushel rape crop can remove as much as 60 pounds of nitrogen and 26 pounds of phosphorus per acre from the soil. Since the greatest response to fertilizer occurs when both nitrogen and phosphorus are in the proper balance, it is a good idea to have a soil test done.

Because rapeseed crops cannot tolerate a high level of nitrogen with the seed, the general recommendation is that no more than 10 pounds of nitrogen per acre be applied with the seed. When high rates are required, as indicated by a soil test, the nitrogen should be broadcast or sidebanded to avoid germination injury.

Since phosphate fertilizers such as 11-48-0 and 11-55-0 are most often drilled in with the seed, application rates of phosphorus should not exceed 25 pounds per acre.

Weed Control

Successful weed control in rape requires good tillage practices combined with chemicals. There are a number of herbicides on the market today to control various weeds in rapeseed. Some of these are Treflan, Avadex BW, Carbyne, TOK/RM, Cobex, TCA, Endaven and Hoe-grass. Label instructions regarding rate and time of application, method of application and incorporation and care when handling the chemical should be carefully followed.

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Rapeseed Production Recommendations (cont'd)

Rapeseed Diseases

A common disease of rape is damping off or seedling blight. It is more of a problem in cool, wet weather and in low lying areas. The seeds either fail to germinate or the seedlings wilt or rot off at ground level shortly after emerging. Control involves shallow seeding (half to one inch), proper fertilizing and seeding when the soil is sufficiently warm. The use of a combination insecticide-fungicide seed treatment will provide some protection against seedling blight, seed decay and flea beetles.

Damage from staghead (white rust) is most apparent as a malformation of pods or entire flower stalks. White blisters also appear on the underside of the leaves. The loss in yield from staghead is directly related to the amount of infection. If, for example, 5 per cent of the rape branches are infected, yields will be reduced by 5 per cent.

There is no seed treatment that will control this disease. The use of clean seed from disease-free fields, control of susceptible weeds and a crop rotation for at least 5 years with non-crucifers is recommended. Argentine rape varieties are resistant to this disease.

In view of the outbreak of blackleg disease in Melfort, Saskatchewan, last summer, it is a good idea to treat rapeseed with a systemic containing the fungicide benoyml (Benlate).

There are several other diseases common to rape, but in most cases disease control recommendations are the use of good, clean seed, control of cruciferous weeds and crop rotations lasting at least three to four years.

Insect Control

Flea beetles (black beetles) can do severe damage to rape seedlings if the infestation is heavy. Damage appears as small round holes in the leaves. The greatest damage occurs when rape is planted near a field where the previous year's crop was infested. The beetles overwinter as adults under the grass along the borders of fields. Damage is first noticed, and usually most severe, in areas bordering headlands and treed areas.

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Rapeseed Production Recommendations (cont'd)

The use of a seed treatment is particularly advisable if you have had a previous flea beetle infestation. Two types of treatments are available: a granular insecticide and a dust. To provide protection against blackleg disease, use a product that contains the fungicide benoyml .

Since there is expected to be a significant increase in Alberta's rapeseed acreage this year, there is a good chance of encountering more problems with diseases and pests than usual. For this reason, good crop rotation practices, the use of good seed, the application of recommended pesticides and careful and continuous checking of rape crops will be even more important than ever.

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM ACCIDENT MONITORING SYSTEM EXPANDED TO INCLUDE PEACE RIVER

Alberta Agriculture's Farm Accident Monitoring System has been expanded to include the Beaverlodge, Fairview, Grande Prairie and Hythe hospitals in the Peace River region.

Solomon Kyeremanteng, research co-ordinator in charge of the program, says the Peace River region is being included because the type of farming carried out there is different to that in other parts of the province. "The inclusion of the Peace River region will ensure that the data collected on the causes and types of farm accident will be truly representative of farming in this province," he explains.

Operated by Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division in co-operation with Alberta Labor's occupational health and safety division, the monitoring system was established almost two years ago to obtain information on the cause of specific accidents, the nature of the injuries sustained and the sites where the accidents took place. The data is now obtained from 37 hospitals located throughout Alberta, which have agreed to participate in the program.

It is being used to define the farm accident problem in Alberta, to identify the hazards associated with farming, to determine the areas where accident prevention should be focused and to established a basis against which future accident trends can be measured and preventative programs evaluated. Prior to the implementation of the present program, meaningful statistics on farm accidents were very difficult to obtain, and the hazards of farming were poorly documented.

Analysis of data to date has resulted in the initiation of the following activities which are aimed at preventing farm accidents:

- Grants. They are given to agricultural societies which use a safety theme in their annual fairs.

- (cont'd) -

Farm Accident Monitoring System Expanded to Include Peace River (cont'd)

- Farm Safety Workshops. They are designed for groups of from 10 to 24 people who are 16 years of age and older. The workshops include group discussion, an evaluation of farm hazards and a review of ideas designed to improve both farm and work safety.
- Poster Contest. It is designed for children in grades one to four who live in Alberta.
- Coloring Books. Winning posters in the above contest are made into coloring books and distributed to schools for use in the early grades.
- Poster Handouts. Winning posters in the contest are also distributed to rural schools, farm organizations and other interested groups.
- Displays. Safety displays are distributed to rural fairs and exhibitions.
- Radio Spots. Safety messages are aired periodically over local radio stations.
- Pamphlets. They cover specific situations, identified by the monitoring system as being particularly hazardous.

Further information on any of the above topics or on the Alberta Farm Accident Monitoring System in general can be obtained from the Farm Safety Program, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-2186).

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERGENCY SURVIVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Alberta Agriculture's safety co-ordinator, Grant Churchill, suggests that anyone who is planning a fishing or hiking trip or a business trip off the beaten track take the following precautions against getting lost or encountering a bad storm or a mechnical breakdown.

One of the first things he recommends is a survival kit, which he says should be equipped for use in either summer or winter. It should contain the following items: A blanket; two six-inch candles (for warmth); waterproof matches; a can of sterno fuel (for cooking); a fold-up holder for the sterno can; an empty can with wire handles (for cooking, water and to store part of kit contents);a can and bottle opener; two spoons and a jack knife; a piece of tin-foil (for use as a reflector); a needle and thread (for an emergency situation); a flash light; six bandaids and a good book.

Your survival kit should also contain enough food for the period you intend to be on the road; not more. Among the high energy foods recommended are sugar, honey, beef jerky, chocolate, nuts, cereal and nut combinations and canned puddings. Good sources of protein are luncheon meats and tuna fish. Other suggestions are packaged dehydrated soups; instant hot chocolate in cup-sized packages; granola cereal bars, dried fruit and raisins, instant breakfasts and powdered milk. Since canned foods freeze, you should use dried products whenever possible in the winter time.

Following is a sample menu for a 24-hour period, starting after 9p.m.

Snack — Soup or instant hot chocolate, whole wheat crackers (i.e. Triscuits), canned meat.

Breakfast — Instant hot chocolate, dried fruit, granola cereal bar.

Dinner — Vegetable soup, canned tuna, pudding, dried fruit.

Supper — Vegetable soup, canned meat, pudding, dried fruit.

Snack — Nuts, chocolate, whole wheat crackers, hot chocolate.

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Emergency Survival Recommendations (cont'd)

Mr. Churchill also recommends carrying extra clothing in your car, even if the day is bright and warm when you start out. This precaution is particularly important in the winter and early spring.

Always carry a shovel and a bag of sand in the winter in case you get stuck.

Keep your car in good mechanical condition. Check your spare tire for air pressure, and make sure your jack is in the trunk of your car.

When possible fill your gas tank when it is half to three-quarters empty (do not allow it to get nearly empty). There is less chance of condensation forming at high altitudes or during cold weather if the tank is reasonably full. Condensation causes frozen gas lines when the temperature is cold.

If you get lost or cannot see because of a bad storm or blizzard, stay with your car. A vehicle is more easily located after a storm than a body. Search parties look for vehicles.

Make sure you have enough clothing or blankets (sleeping bags are just as good) to avoid having to run your engine. This precaution will help if you have a mechanical breakdown, and it will enable you to open the window enough during cold weather to let in fresh air, thereby preventing carbon monoxide poisoning.

Always leave a window open enough to let in air so that you get oxygen. If you have to light a candle for warmth, it will use up the oxygen more quickly than would otherwise be the case.

All the above mentioned emergency supplies, except the clothing, should be packed as tightly as possible in a small carboard box. Mr. Churchill advises checking the box once a month to make sure its contents have not been damaged and that the food is still good. He also says that almost all the supplies he has recommended can be obtained from a sporting good store. Many of the food items can also be obtained from a food store.

If you would like more information about emergency survival recommendations write to Grant Churchill, Safety Co-ordinator, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTING OFFENSIVE ODORS IN DUGOUT WATER

Do you have a farm dugout? Did the water turn black and develop an offensive odor last winter?

If you have encountered this problem, or wish to avoid it, you should treat your dugout water three times a year to control the algae and once a year to control the aquatic weeds.

Ron Johnston, water and sewage engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says the water turns black in a dugout and develops an unpleasant odor when it contains a high concentration of organic matter. When the ice prevents oxygen from coming in contact with the water, the oxygen already in the water is soon used up, and the organic material starts to breaks down. During its decomposition, it produces hydrogen sulphide gas which, in addition to smelling like rotten eggs, reacts with the organic matter and causes the water to turn black. The problem does not occur in the summer because the water is exposed to unlimited oxygen in the air, and any hydrogen sulphide gas that is produced soon dissipates.

You should do the first treatment for algae as early in the spring as possible, and follow it by a treatment in mid-summer and again in the fall. "Do not wait to do the first treatment in the spring until you can see the algae," says Mr. Johnston. "By that time there may already be enough organic matter in the water to cause a problem next winter."

He recommends using copper sulphate (bluestone) at a rate of one pound per 100,000 gallons of dugout capacity. The average sized-dugout would need five to 10 pounds of copper sulphate.

The time to treat for aquatic weed growth is in late June or early July. A chemical such as diquat (Region A) is recommended for this treatment. It should be mixed with water and applied as a spray to aquatic weeds along the banks of the dugout, both above and below the water level. Water that has been treated with diquat should not be used for 24 hours.

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Preventing Offensive Odors in Dugout water (cont'd)

Other control measures include removing any trees growing around the dugout, to prevent their leaves from falling into the water, and diverting drainage water from a barnyard or feedlot away from the dugout. Apart from causing bacterial contamination of the dugout, the water that drains from either of these areas contains nutrients which promote the growth of algae and aquatic plants. Mr. Johnston stresses that anyone who is planning to make a dugout should be very careful to choose a location that will not be affected by drainage from a barnyard or a feedlot.

Information on building a farm dugout and on the use of chemicals to control weed growth in an existing dugout can be obtained from your regional agricultural engineering technologist. He can be contacted through your district agriculturist.

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREPARING POLLEN SUPPLEMENT

Although a pollen supplement is generally fed during April to ensure uninterrupted brood rearing, it is also a good idea to feed it in May if bad weather prevents the bees from gathering their own pollen or if a natural supply of pollen is not available for some reason.

Soybean flour cakes make a good pollen supplement, according to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's apiculture branch. He recommends mixing one part of dry matter (one part pollen to three parts soybean flour) with two parts of sugar syrup (two parts sugar to one part water). Since dry pollen does not dissolve in sugar syrup, it should be mixed in hot water before it is added to the sugar.

For a one-time feeding of pollen supplement to 45 colonies, use a medium-sized tub, and mix five pounds of pollen in 14 pounds of hot water. Next, stir in 26 pounds of sugar until it is in suspension. Then add 16 pounds of soybean flour and thoroughly mix all the ingredients.

Before placing the supplement in the hives wrap it in wax paper and make holes in the bottom of the paper to give the bees access to the supplement. The wax paper is necessary for preventing the supplement from drying out or from falling between the frames. Put approximately one and a half pounds of supplement in each piece of wax paper and place it directly over the centre of the bee cluster in each hive. The best way to do this is to remove the hive cover and smoke the bees down from the top of the frames. The supplement should last the colony 10 to 14 days. If it is necessary to provide a pollen supplement for longer than this period, the new supply should be given before the previous supply has been completely used up.

"If a colony that is not getting any pollen from an outside source does not eat the supplement, it may be a sign that the colony is weak and not raising brood or it may be that the colony does not have a queen," Dr. Soehngen says.

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATES OF UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LECTURES CHANGE

The dates of two public lectures to be given at the University of Alberta by the internationally recognized expert on animal growth, development and nutrition, Dr. V. R. Fowler, have been changed to May 3 and 5 from the previously announced dates of April 26 and 28.

Dr. Fowler is a current holder of a Commonwealth fellowship and head of the non-ruminant research in applied nutrition at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland. His topics will be "The Utilization of Resources in Meat Production from Non-Ruminants" and "Concepts of Efficiency in Animal Production". He will be at the University of Alberta's department of animal science until May 31, 1978.

The two lectures will be given at 4 p.m. on May 3 and 5 in the Henry Marshall Tory Lecture Theatre B2.

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April 24, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Johh Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the following district agriculturist appointments.

John Knapp

Mr. Knapp has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Cardston. A graduate of the University of Alberta in 1977, he has been training in the Sedgewick district office since last September.

Dan Peters

Mr. Peters, formerly district agriculturist at Peace River, has transferred to the Edson district office. He replaced Walter Preugschas who resigned recently. Mr. Peters has previously served as district agriculturist at Vermilion, Mayerthorpe and Three Hills.

Guy Kerr

Mr. Kerr is the new district agriculturist at Fort Vermilion. He replaces Rich Bjorge who resigned. A 1972 graduate of the University of British Columbia, Mr. Kerr served with the Rimbey district office before spending a period with the Calgary City Police Force.

Richard Stringham

Mr. Stringham has been appointed district agriculturist at Manning. His appointment fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Richard Bradford. Mr. Stringham is a 1977 graduate of the University of Manitoba and has been training at the Lethbridge district office since last May. He will be moving to Manning in early May of this year.

John Hladky

Mr. Hladky will be tranferring to the Morinville district office in May from Camrose where he is currently district agriculturist. He will be filling the vacancy created by the transfer of Wally Klatt to the plant industry division earlier this year. A native of Sangudo, Mr. Hladky has been in the Camrose district office since May 1975.

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District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Rick Williams

Mr. Williams has been transferred to Ponoka from Valleyview. As distirct agriculturist at Ponoka, he replaces Ted Darling who resigned earlier this year. Mr. Williams is a 1975 graduate of Utah State University and trained at Valleyview with district agriculturist John Tackaberry.

Alan Hall

Mr. Hall has been appointed senior district agriculturist in the Barrhead region. He replaces Wally Klatt who held that position prior to his transfer to the plant industry division. Mr. Hall will continue to be involved in district agriculturist duties in the Westlock area, where he has been district agriculturist since 1973, but will be assigned additional responsibilities in the Barrhead region.

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